



The time for Love lessons



Parental opposition makes love a secret affair for young students.

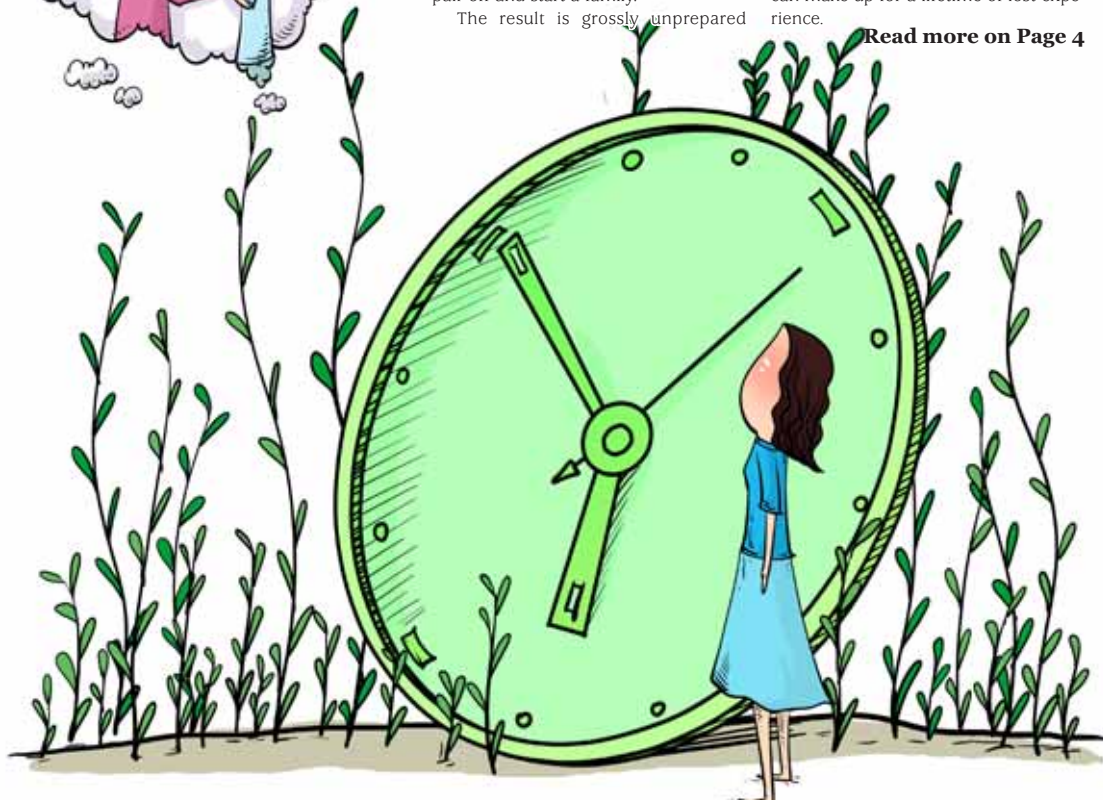
But after university, when they are thrust into the world, parents and society at large expect them to immediately pair off and start a family.

The result is grossly unprepared

people being quickly pushed into marriage – and finding an escape from that institution just as quickly.

The Municipal Committee on Education is hoping its new lessons on love can make up for a lifetime of lost experience.

Read more on Page 4



Pages 20-21

The soul of crosstalk

In Beijing, crosstalk is relegated to a handful of big theaters. But the traditional comedic art lives on in its original form in Tianjin's teahouses. Meet some of the masters your cab driver is listening to!

Page 8

Save the moon bear

AAF hopes to wipe out the bear bile farming industry.



Pages 12-13

Artists' year to shine

The nation's top art expo is learning that high quality trumps world branding.



Experts blame supervisors for food safety scandals

When a food safety scandal emerges, it's the supervisory agencies that deserve to be held accountable for violating food safety regulations.

But that hasn't been the case. Each time media break a food safety scandal, the public pounces on the food producer while overlooking a total failure of the government's supervisory agencies to do their jobs, said Ma Guanghai, a professor of sociology at Shandong University's School of Philosophy and Social Development.

Ma's comments came after a recent series of food safety scandals that have come despite the government's efforts to secure the country's food industry.

Last week, steamed buns in Shanghai were reported to have been laced with coloring additives when they go beyond the expiration date.

Less than a month ago, the country's largest meat processor, Shuanghui Group, was forced to apologize for selling pork containing the stimulant clenbuterol, which was apparently fed to the pigs to make them develop more muscle than fat.

Ideally, these food safety violations should be caught and resolved in an effective and timely manner.

Unfortunately, they are rarely dealt with by supervisors until they develop into very serious problems, said Chen Yuesheng, a research fellow at the Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences.

Such cases call for serious investigation and the negligent officials deserve harsh punishment, Chen said.

Official records show that the country's food safety supervision agencies dealt with 130,000 cases of regulation violations or improper practices and detained 248 people suspected of criminal charges last year.

Ma said the number of ventures engaged in production of



Steamed buns in Shanghai are reported to have been laced with coloring additives.

CFP Photo

foodstuffs, food additives and other food related products across the country exceeds 400,000.

"The number of food safety personnel is relatively small compared to their workload," Ma said.

Before Shuanghui Group's clenbuterol scandal, supervisors allowed swine farmers to select and send their own pork samples for screening. The farmers simply provided samples they knew to be clean to avoid detection.

"Food safety personnel have limited equipment and training for examining food products quickly and effectively," Ma said. "That, however, should not be an excuse for failing to supervise food safety."

Experts and industry insiders also say some of the current administrative system's loopholes are partially to blame.

In some regions, local food

safety agencies' officials' wages partly come from revenue obtained from fines, causing a reluctance to enact any preventive measures, a food safety supervisor in Shandong Province told Xinhua on the condition of anonymity.

Another concern is that too many agencies are responsible for food safety issues, leading to some overlapping or ambiguous areas of responsibility, said Huang Pei, an associate professor at Tongji University's Law School.

With limited financial resources and personnel, relevant government agencies might be reluctant to make an effort or take initiative in solving a problem – but they still expect others to do the job, Huang said.

"The system must be streamlined to fix this problem," Huang said.

The central government established a national food safety commission under the State Council last February as part of its effort to coordinate relevant departments. The commission consists of three vice premiers and a dozen ministerial-level officials.

In 2008, the food industry suffered a heavy blow when milk products were found to contain dangerous levels of melamine, an industrial chemical that makes milk appear to be higher in protein. The toxic milk killed at least six babies and sickened 300,000 others across the country.

In addition to launching serious investigations into enterprise violations and officials' conduct, the government should encourage the public to report violations by offering awards, experts suggested.

(Xinhua)

Economy off to a good start in 2011

By Li Zhixin

The economy expanded 9.7 percent in the first quarter of 2011 from a year earlier and 2.1 percent from the previous quarter to 9.63 trillion yuan, the National Bureau of Statistics said last Friday.

"The national economy is off to a good start, given it has maintained a steady and relatively fast growth," said Sheng Laiyun, a spokesman for the bureau.

In the fourth quarter of 2010, the economy grew 9.8 percent year on year from 9.6 percent in the third quarter, after slowing down from 11.9 percent in the first quarter and 10.3 percent in the second.

In March, consumer prices rose 5.4 percent year on year, a 32-month high, Sheng said. The country aims to hold inflation at around 4 percent for the full year.

Retail sales, which measure consumer spending, rose 16.3 percent from a year ago in the first quarter, compared to 15.8 percent during the first two months.

The State Council has pledged to continue the country's proactive fiscal policy to rein in soaring prices.

Last Wednesday, Premier Wen Jiabao said at an executive meeting of the State Council that the country remains under great pressure due to price hikes, based on inflation data from the first quarter.

"We must never lower our guard," he said.

Consumer spending, regarded as one of the three engines driving China's economic growth, contributed to 37 percent of its 39.8-trillion-yuan GDP last year.

As for the other two engines, foreign trade and investment both accelerated in the first quarter.

The country's foreign trade volume surged 29.5 percent to 800 billion dollars, with a trade deficit of \$1 billion (6.53 billion yuan) in the first quarter.

The investment in urban fixed assets rose 25 percent to 3.95 billion yuan, with investment in real estate development rising 34.1 percent year-on-year to 884 billion yuan, according to the bureau.

August 2008, the city made great progress in reducing air pollution. Construction was limited before and during the game to minimize dust and emissions.

But the increasingly dense population – 17 million at the end of 2010 – and booming vehicle ownership has started a construction and production boom that overran earlier efforts.

"Our new plan is ideal and perfect," Yang Jinwen, senior engineer of EDF Beijing, said. "But now the question is how to implement it."

The engineer said combating dust and air pollution is a huge job. "If we act with determination to implement serious measures, I can be optimistic about the future."

City tightens rules to end air pollution by 2015

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing is preparing to impose harsher standards on air pollution than are nationally required, sources from the Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau said.

During the next five years, the bureau will begin requiring that 80 percent of the days of the year be rated as having "excellent" or "good" air conditions.

To reach its goal, the bureau plans to tax construction sites, which are the main sources of dust, and high-polluting enterprises that emit sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, benzopyrene and fluoride, according to the bureau's Clean Air Action Plan (2011-2015), part of

the city's 12th Five Year Plan.

It would be the municipality's first attempt to tax emitters of dust and pollutants. The bureau is set to reduce the concentration of particulates in the air by 10 percent by 2015.

The bureau appealed to neighboring suburbs to control the dust and air pollution from dirt roads, undeveloped land and coal-fired boilers and stoves, Zhuang Zhidong, deputy head of the bureau, said at his bureau's press conference earlier this week.

"We hope the suburban districts will stop burning coal," the deputy head said.

Three of the four thermal power plants in the city will undergo clean

energy renovations. Total use of coal is expected to be reduced to 20 million tons by 2015 and with no less than 20 percent of its users migrating to natural gas.

Oil refineries are planned to have their production output capped at 10 million tons and cement factories at 7 million tons.

The city would also impose stricter standards for vehicle emissions, phasing out 400,000 vehicles that fail to meet the new standards before 2015. The number of registered vehicles in the city exceeded 4.8 million by the end of 2010 and increases by 2,000 per day.

"This growth has offset our efforts for clean air by a large per-

cent," Zhuang said.

To stop further deterioration, municipal authorities have begun locking new car registrations at 240,000 per year – a drop of more than 800,000 since 2010.

The bureau, together with other departments, encourages residents to use public transportation instead of private cars, as well as clean-energy vehicles.

Public transportation, the postal system, city sanitation services and taxi companies will be the first to move to clean-energy vehicles. By 2012, more than 5,000 new vehicles will be used in these systems, according to the Five Year Plan.

Prior to the Olympic Games in

Doctor recalls experience of Pakistan mission

By He Jianwei

Three months ago, Zhang Dingyu, an anesthesiologist at Wuhuan Fourth Hospital, left to work as a volunteer at Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) mission in Pakistan.

The experience was a humbling reminder of the state of the medicine industry in China, Zhang said, recalling how the international teams followed all the "seemingly unimportant details" of surgery that his colleagues routinely ignore.

"Except during chest surgery, we seldom provide patients with a warm glucose drip. Although the operating rooms in Pakistan tend to be shabbier than our own, they found ways to keep the glucose drip warm by using a box with a light bulb," Zhang said on April 9 at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art.

MSF requires that during surgery, doctors must keep a patient hooked up to two intravenous drips – one for the transfusion and the second a backup lifeline – should the need arise to battle massive hemorrhage.

"When I asked my colleagues to follow these instructions, they told me that patients here wouldn't be willing to have two needles," he said. "If that's the case, I don't think they clearly explained just why that second needle is so important."

He also learned the government has no national standards to regulate the size of intravenous needles and those used in anesthesia. "I sat down and read all the regulations that are written by and used by nursing specialists, but nothing says what size needles we should be using for adults or children," he said.

As the vice president of his hospital, Zhang passed new house rules that require patients be given warm glucose drips and a second intravenous drip after his return.

"I'm lucky to be in a position to make such profound changes in my own hospital," he said.

As the first anesthesiologist from the mainland to join the



Zhang Dingyu (middle) is back from a three-month volunteer effort in Pakistan.

international medical humanitarian aid organization, Zhang was sent to Timergara, Pakistan's Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, last December to work on the project for three months.

In 2009, the area was under Taliban control. The Pakistan government fought hard to recapture the territory and to establish a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs). But life in the camp was difficult, and its residents had limited access to medical care.

Zhang first heard of MSF when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999. That year was also when he completed a two-year mission to Algeria arranged by the Chinese government.

"Unlike the MSF's mission, doctors in the government's mission enjoy a considerable allowance," he said. "I admired the doctors in MSF for doing so much good with so little."

His first surgery was on a pregnant woman who went into puerperal convulsions on December 16. "It's rare to see this in a Chinese hospital. We had to have all the nurses and doctors work together to hold her down while we performed the operation. She was too large of a woman and couldn't stop twitching," he said. "After delivering the child, she still weighed about 100 kilograms."

Due to a lack of prenatal care, women in the camp rarely receive checkups before birth. About 390 children are born each day, and

50 to 60 require a Caesarean section. "That may not seem like many, but the result is that every woman who ends up in the hospital is already in an emergency situation," he said.

Zhang said the doctors' work in MSF is very orderly, because the organization has very clear instructions for all procedures.

When the United Nations World Food Program distributed food to a town 60 kilometers from MSF's medical center, a suicide attack killed 30 people and injured another 60.

When the MSF medical center heard the news, they divided their hospital into three areas: black, red and green zones. The dead were placed in the black zone, the red zone was for emergency patients and the green zone was for minor injuries.

"It is an efficient and effective way to deal with a sudden flood of patients. Although they didn't send the injured to our hospital, we were already prepared," Zhang said. A few days later, they received four patients who were injured in another minor attack.

Zhang previously worked on part of the medical rescue team formed after the Sichuan earthquake of 2008. In hindsight, he said that he and the rest of them were too inexperienced to be effective after the disaster.

"Although my MSF experience lasted only three months, it is something I will treasure throughout my future medical work," he said.



Zhang Dingyu is the first anesthesiologist from the Chinese mainland to join Médecins Sans Frontières.

Photos provided by MSF

JA's new book helps students address growing pains

By Huang Daoheng

News that high school students in Shanghai topped last year's global PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) scores was celebrated by many.

But seniors who attended a recent book launch for Junior Achievement (JA) China, a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of young people, say that achievement has not made life any easier.

"We still face an incredibly stressful time trying to find a job before graduating," said Zhang Hui, a senior at Beijing University of Chemical Technology.

That stress was the reason he got up early last Saturday and took a two-hour bus ride to attend the release of JA's new book in Peking University.

The book, *When College Students Meet JA*, tells the trials and success stories of 11 local college students.

Some made their own fortunes and became millionaires even before graduation, and others devoted themselves to volunteer services while awaiting better job opportunities.

Learning how fellow students have coped with the job crunch may help this year's graduates

make better plans, Zhang said. The 22-year-old, a JA campus volunteer, said the JA program provides him with a platform to make more connections.

The country's education system comes under criticism every year for being too exam oriented. While some students may do well on the PISA test, those high scores usually come at the cost of a childhood.

Having grown up in a small town in Hunan Province, Zhang had only one road out into the world: the National College Entrance Exam. He took the three-day test during the

summer of 2007.

Since kindergarten, Zhang had attended after-school classes in every subject from math to English.

"But how can you be imaginative when you never had a chance to play and only did what the textbooks told you to?" said Yang Lixin, a professor at Beijing Normal University.

Schools should encourage students to think critically, ask questions and challenge teachers, Yang said. But he said such a fundamental change will take a long time.

In the meantime, non-governmental organizations engaged in education might fill the gap.

Gao Yang, the central executive officer of JA, envisions her group doing just this.

She said the objective of the book launch was to share stories with students and inspire them to think outside the box – to find their own path through life.

Gao said training future entrepreneurs has been JA's signature program for decades. The agency plans to bring more educational programs to Chinese youth.

Since entering China in 1995, JA's programs in economics, employment preparation and entrepreneurship have benefited 1.85 million students.

Let's talk about love

By Zhao Hongyi

Chinese parents often step in to keep their teens from making friends, falling in love and dating. They believe affairs of the heart will upset their child's focus on study and destroy their chance of graduating from a famous university and landing a good job.

But when these sheltered children reach the age for marriage – 22 for

men and 20 for women – parents suddenly urge their children to grab a boyfriend or girlfriend, get married and breed.

The sudden change can be frustrating for youths, who are already struggling to find a way to function in a post-college world. The sudden burden of marriage and childrearing is too much for many, who escape their new domestic arrangements through divorce, suicide or murder.



A teacher at Beijing University of Science and Technology discusses life and love with her students. Love, marriage, family, life and career are among the many new topics of course today. CFP Photo

Arriving too late

Last week, the Beijing Municipal Committee on Education proudly released its "Psychological Health Program for University Students," a guideline long in the making that attempts to guide lecturers in teaching their students about love, marriage and family.

This program, hopefully, may soon become a required course.

The document outlines a nine-part course that would teach self-confidence, learning from experience, interpersonal interaction, emotional management, the meanings of family, love and pressure, and to how to manage your life.

The course would "help students learn to express and accept love." Students would learn about love disputes, love triangles and

homosexual love.

Parents who support the course argue the guidelines are arriving far too late, as many of their children face difficulties in communicating with the opposite sex and have become rebellious.

But many oppose the idea of polluting the purity of an education environment with talks on love.

Most of the students, for their part, believe love has to be learned from experience.

"This course will be a joke," Zhang Yu, a senior at Capital Normal University, said.

Yang Yi, a sophomore at Capital University of Economics, said the course might be of use. However, with more students falling in love in high school, it might be better taught before college.

"Our purpose is to help students raise their self-confidence and prevent psychological diseases," said Yang Dongping, director of the Higher Education Research Center. Yang is one of the members of a group drafting the guideline.

"It's like the course at Harvard that teaches you how to be happy," he said.

The time to teach love

Despite pressure from parents, many students are shy to talk about love in their teens, avoid marriage after graduation and remain single into their 30s and 40s.

Even those who marry can hardly manage: the divorce rate has seen a dramatic increase during the past two decades.

While some blame the high divorce rate on the infection of China

with "Western notions of freedom," there is no discounting the role that selfishness and irresponsibility play in many break-ups.

The new course is not without precedent. A number of famous universities, such as Fudan University, the University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Nanjing and Peking University, have offered similar classes for years.

"Beijing is just the first to put down some guidelines and encourage our educational institutes to open a course about this," said Wang Jun, a professor of philosophy and social science at Peking University.

The courses can help students grow up and mature to understand love and family and prepare for marital responsibility, he said.

Students who attended the

Peking University class said it was more a psychological course than one offering specific lessons in love.

At Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the course has helped many women realize wealth should not be the only criterion for evaluating a potential mate's marriagability.

At Fudan University, foreign teachers and students are invited to speak about their experiences to help students achieve a broader view of the topic.

High school the real target

"The task before us is to find a way to promote this course to undergraduates and high school students," said professor Wang Jun.

Today's high school students tend to be more grown up than their parents were. Many have fixed boyfriends or girlfriends – what they don't have is an understanding of the responsibilities involved in love, marriage and family.

Parents, for their part, see high school students as too young to discuss such life issues.

The result is that children end up having sex too early and refuse to accept responsibility for their actions. "This attitude will cause them a lot of trouble in the future," Wang said.

There have been many reports of high school girls fighting publicly over a boy, receiving abortions or dropping out of school to work and support a boyfriend. It happens with such frequency that such incidents have become non-news.

Wang said the best way to discuss love and sex with a high school student is to explain that there is a price for happiness.

"We Chinese have an aversion to discussing private matters and sex," Yang said. "[The result is] we are seeing students putting themselves in many unfortunate circumstances."

Yang advocates putting aside traditional taboos when they become detrimental to society. "The best path is to lay these topics out in the open and have a public discussions about the good and the bad," he said.

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Grandstanding in Hainan

BRICS set to shape new global order

Leaders of the world's emerging powers at last Thursday's BRICS summit in Sanya, Hainan Province had a clear message for the rest of the world: countries with still-developing economies want more political sway.

In a summit on the tropical resort island of Sanya last week, heads of state from Brazil, Russia, Indian, China and newly included South Africa – the BRICS – met to discuss how to get a greater say in world affairs, particularly of the economic kind.

The BRICS leaders issued a 32-point declaration that covered everything from congratulating Russia on the 50th anniversary of sending a man into space to generally condemning terrorism.

In a statement, the BRICS leaders declared "democracy in international relations should be promoted, and the voice of emerging and developing countries in international affairs should be enhanced."

But mostly, overseas media believe that it was all about calling for that larger voice in world affairs.

Some leaders point out that they aren't trying to replace any other existing framework, like the G20 or the International Monetary Fund. What they want is a bigger voice within those existing mechanisms.



South Africa President Jacob Zuma (in focus) presents at a bilateral meeting for the BRICS Summit.

Getty Images/CFP Photo

The third eye

How bright can BRICS shine?

Mariano Turzi, professor at Torcuato De Tella University in Buenos Aires, told Xinhua in a recent interview that close cooperation and dialogue among the BRICS nations would deepen South-South cooperation, change the game rules of international finance and trade, and give developing countries more power to speak.

BRICS' rise would be diffi-

cult to reverse in 10 to 15 years, and it would restructure the global pattern of economy, trade and diplomacy, he said.

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, director of the South African Institute of International Affairs, said the BRICS mechanism was the natural product of the sustainable rise of emerging economies and the continuous expansion of trade and economic cooperation between

them, adding BRICS was a bloc struggling for the interests of developing countries.

Humberto Siuves, an economist with the Brazilian Economic Institute of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, said the BRICS mechanism had provided a platform for its members to express their views, coordinate their stances and take joint action in forming the new international political and

economic order.

The Singaporean newspaper *Lianhe Zaobao* said Monday in an editorial that as China is ready to adopt an open strategy that is more active in the coming five years to create and enhance benefits in Asia, it will also be committed to resolving disputes with its neighboring countries through peaceful means.

(Agencies)

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Inflation battle never ends

Gov raises bank reserve ratio for 4th time in fight

Although the central bank has intensified its monetary tightening to halt persistently high inflation, the measures may fall short of achieving the goal due to underground financial markets.



Zhou Xiaochuan says the reserve ratio will continue to tighten.

Wen Di/IC Photo

The bank announced over the weekend that it would raise the required reserve ratio of the country's lenders by 50 basis points for the fourth time this year.

The new measures took effect yesterday, according to a statement released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

The move would raise the required reserve ratio for large financial institutions to a record high of 20.5 percent.

The tightening measure was expected after the government said last Friday that the consumer price index (CPI), the primary gauge of inflation, had reached a 32-month high of 5.4 percent in March.

Along with reserve hikes, the country raised the benchmark interest rates four times since last October to battle persistent inflation.

The increase was not a shock, given that outstanding foreign exchange funds picked up in

March and massive bills and repurchase agreements matured this month, said Lian Ping, a chief economist at the Bank of Communications.

"Open market operations are not enough to absorb liquidity, and the hike in the required reserve ratio will re-freeze about 350 billion yuan (\$53.6 billion)," he said.

The central bank said China's foreign-exchange reserves surged to \$3 trillion by the end of March, and that Chinese banks lent 679.4 billion yuan in loans as of March, up from 535.6 billion yuan in February.

Moreover, the broad money supply (M2), which covers cash in circulation and all deposits, increased 16.6 percent year on year as of the end of March, 0.9 percentage points higher than at the end of February.

The increase shattered the government's target ceiling of 16 percent for 2011 as set down in a work

report released in March.

"The current cash in the economy is still ample, which prompted the hike," said Zhao Xijun, a finance professor at Renmin University of China.

The continuous tightening of the central bank seeks to remove monetary factors that are related to inflation, said Yin Jianfeng, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a government think tank.

The view echoed that of PBOC governor Zhou Xiaochuan, who said Saturday that "China will continue tightening its monetary policy for some time" while at the Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan Province. He said there is no absolute ceiling for reserve requirements.

Premier Wen Jiabao said earlier this month, during an inspection tour in Zhejiang Province, that keeping the overall price levels stable is a top priority for current

macro regulators.

The government would use tools, including open-market operations, required reserve ratios, interest rates and the exchange rate to eliminate the monetary basis for inflation, he said.

Also, the central bank again chose to increase the required reserve ratio instead of interest rates based upon concerns of an inflow of speculative foreign money into China, said Liu Yuan-chun, a professor at Renmin University.

China's economy expanded at 9.7 percent in the first quarter of this year, the National Bureau of Statistics said Friday.

Li Xunlei, a chief economist with Guotai Junan Securities, said the liquidity in the economy is still excessive and China is likely to adopt more tightening measures in the future, including hikes of interest rates and the required reserve ratio.

Huawei unveils board details

Top telecommunications equipment maker Huawei reported a spike in profit on Monday after an annual report revealed new details about the privately held company.

Huawei, which competes with Ericsson, Nokia Siemens Networks and domestic rival ZTE, reported a 30 percent rise last year with a net profit of 23.8 billion yuan (\$3.64 billion), up from 18.3 billion yuan in 2009.

The company attributed the increase to strong overseas sales and growth in its core businesses of telecommunications networks, global services and devices.

"Huawei will likely have the fastest-growing revenue in this sector, compared with competitors," said First Capital Securities analyst Ren Wenjie.

The company was expected to continue to grow for three to five years, and its market share likely to rise as core products enter European and American markets, Ren said.

It is also evolving from a telecommunications equipment manufacturer to an information technology service provider, and its mobile phone business would also contribute significantly to earnings, he said.

Huawei and ZTE had a more robust growth story than their foreign competitors, said Daiwa Capital Markets analyst Joseph Ho.

"If you look at leading European players, their top-line sales growth is much slower than the Chinese," Ho said. "The leading European players are growing their sales in single digits, whereas the Chinese are growing at more than 20 percent. I think that tells the story of market share gains."

For the first time, Huawei's annual report also supplied information about the secretive company's board of directors, providing names, photos and brief biographies.

The directors include founder Ren Zhengfei, a former member of the Chinese military's engineering corps who started the company with just 21,000 yuan, and chairwoman Sun Yafang, who began her career as a technician for a Chinese television manufacturer.

No board members other than Ren were listed as having military experience.

The detailed annual report "was in response to market comments that the company was not transparent enough in terms of ownership," Ho said. "We are putting out more details about the board to improve the perception of the company."

Huawei has had trouble buying assets overseas due to suspicions that it maintains links with the military.

Most recently, the technology company hit regulatory obstacles when it agreed to buy the assets of 3Leaf Technologies for \$2 million last year. In February, the company said it would back away from its acquisition of the US server technology company's assets after the US government raised national security concerns.

(Agencies)

Market watch

Rate hikes a dream for underground banks

While the central bank has tried to control liquidity, a host of underground banks, gray-market institutions and arrangements, have sprung up precisely to get around financial market constraints, the London-based *Financial Times* reported.

Analysts say annual lending could involve 2 trillion yuan (\$305 billion), equivalent to about one-third of the gross domestic product.

The report cited Francis Cheng at CLSA in Hong Kong as saying that the banks account for only half of all financing. The rest comes from a variety of trust companies, finance com-

panies, leasing companies and underground banks.

Some senior banking officials deny the existence of an underground sector.

"The term 'shadow banking' doesn't really apply to China," says Jiang Jianqing, chairman of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, one of the country's biggest banks. "There are no financial institutions outside the supervisory and regulatory system."

Yet the country boasts an ever-growing number of entrepreneurs and other wealthy individuals with excess savings. They have no desire to put their money in a

bank when real interest rates on deposits are negative.

They are therefore happy to put money into informal channels that lend to cash-strapped young private companies that will pay 20 to 30 percent per year.

"Without interest rate deregulation, you drive more money underground," says Christina Chung at RCM Asia Pacific in Hong Kong, a fund manager. "It is difficult to reduce the importance of the black market until financial reforms take place and banks have the incentive to lend to small and medium enterprises and diversify their loan books."

The trust companies and

other shadow institutions are particularly active in the real estate market. When Banyan Tree, a Singapore-based resort company, was looking to raise 1.1 billion yuan for its China project, it skipped the banks and used "wealth management consultants" to secure loans directly from established entrepreneurs and wealthy individuals.

"Institutional investors in China are not mature enough to understand the concept and give us their money," says a Banyan Tree executive. "Wealthy entrepreneurs can make decisions very quickly."

(Agencies)

When art becomes official

By Zhao Hongyi

On April 14, a group of China's most famous experimental artists formed the China Experimental Art Committee, listed under China Artists Association as one of its 20 committees.

China Artists Association is officially recognized by the Ministry of Culture and receives sponsorship from the ministry.

The Chinese media immediately expressed concern that formalizing "experimental art" would detract it from art's purpose.

The newly founded committee includes 20 pioneers of experimental art, including Tan Ping, Lu Shengzhong, Zhu Qingsheng, Zhang Peili and Qiu Zhijie.

Experimental art is a broad-ranging term that includes connections with nearly all types of art, said Tan Ping, the director of the committee. Installation art and visual arts like videos and audio are considered experimental.

Artists also use traditional art forms and symbols, including wash painting, calligraphy, carving and folk art.

"The purpose of setting up the committee is to bring together artists in the experimental field to explore cutting-edge art together," Tan said. "It's also to look for new artists, promote exchanges and maintain academic records."

"The experimental art has developed greatly in China and has received attention from the world," said Lu Shengzhong, director of experimental art at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts. "The recognition and acceptance by the association is not a bad thing."

Lu said good art and official recognition are not mutually exclusive. "It's good as long as the art develops," he said.

This isn't the first time the issue of government involvement in art has been debated. In November 2009, the formation of the Chinese Contemporary Art Committee roused similar suspicion.



Artist Cai Guoqiang's footage of the footprint fireworks impressed the world during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, but will he have the motivation to create another sensation after art goes official?

CFP Photo

Comment

Government subsidy will kill art

History tells us that cutting-edge arts will gradually die once taken under the government's wings. It inevitably becomes a tragedy. The nationalization of all arts in the early 1950s suffocated their prosperity. Once artists receive subsidies and wages from the government, they won't be able

to survive long-term.

— Song Yang, professor of calligraphy, Jiangsu Academy of Fine Arts

Money not hindrance

We should not categorize art by whether it receives subsidies or not. The old ways of thinking of art will hinder its growth and development in China. We should try to accept subsidies as long as it helps artists develop.

— Zhang Xiaotao, director of new media, Sichuan Fine Arts Institute
Serving the people

Chairman Mao Zedong told us that all art should serve the public. Being listed by the government won't matter as long as artists continue to create and produce.

— Wang Jun, professor of philosophy, Peking University

Creation and revolution

The most critical point is that artists keep on creating cutting-edge works that are well received by public. If they do that, then everything will be OK. If not, we will have to go back and find the problems.

— Roderigo Garay, Chilean student of contemporary art, China Central Academy of Arts

Young woman's death raises concern of overwork

By Liang Meilan

The death of a 25-year-old junior auditor in the Shanghai office of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) on April 10 has sparked heated discussion over the working hours of office employees, as well as employers' perceived indifference.

Pan Jie died of cerebral meningitis caused by a viral or bacterial infection. High stress and overwork were speculated to have contributed to her death.

Pan had been working for PWC for several months. She posted many messages on her microblog — and many after 3 am — complaining about her energy-consuming job.

Among her messages: "fever again during free time"; "overtime again"; "I'm dying of hunger"; and "I'd die for sleep."

Her last two messages read, "What does this mean, the count has fallen to a dangerous low of 1,800?" and "Everyone is telling me to quit this job."

The public reaction has been overwhelmingly negative toward PWC, one of the world's "big four" auditing firms.

But the company rejected the notion that Pan was overworked, saying she died during sick leave.

Comment

Fatal overwork

Pan's death at such an early age is due to many factors. Everyone's body is different, and while she may have been susceptible to infection resulting from overwork, "overwork" is not a medical cause for sickness. But she might have done better with more rest while she was ill.

— Yang Binghui, health education expert

Flawed managing system

The company's flawed managing system should be condemned. Pan used to be a healthy and happy woman. She kept telling us she couldn't stand the frequent overtime work and high stress, which was driving her mad. But no one [in the office] seemed to care.

— Yu Tianyan, Pan's friend

Can be avoided

Overwork is indeed a cause for her death. But if she could have balanced her job and life and took timely medical leave, her death could have been avoided.

— Wen Ding, public health consultant



Pan Jie's Weibo

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

A legal problem

The overwork of office workers isn't just a social problem but also a legal issue. So far, there is no clear legal definition of "overwork," and we don't know its impact on workers' physical and mental health. Measures should be taken to strengthen

labor supervision departments and labor unions' function in monitoring and dealing with this. In addition, laws should be drafted to properly define "overwork."

— Wang Quanxing, labor law expert, professor at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

The quest to save China's moon bears

Local organization strives to change perceptions about bear bile



Rupert and Franz

The bear rescue center

The photo exhibition showed Asiatic black bears – also called moon bears – relaxing after being rescued and sent to the 27-acre Sichuan-based Longqiao Moon Rescue Center.

The bears at the center have all gone through terrible ordeals, caged in inhumane conditions for the purpose of harvesting bile. Scars can be seen on many of the bears' bodies.

Of all the animals, though, it's the memory of two deceased ones – Franz and Rupert – that everyone cherishes.

Franzi was sent to the rescue center at the end of 2002, said Zhang Xiaohai, director of external affairs at AAF. "Her head was regular sized, but her body was small and underdeveloped, as she lived most of her 25 years on a bear farm lying on her belly in a narrow metal cage," Zhang said.

The center didn't think Franz would survive, as she was old, had bad teeth, heart disease and a respiratory disorder. But she was a tough one, and managed to grow stronger each day.

Zhang said Franz – who often burped and farted without scruples – fell in love with Rupert, a male bear with severe dementia, who often walked along walls and forgot the way back to the shed.

"He was absentminded – no one knew what he was thinking at any given time," Zhang said.

But it was apparent he showed affection toward Franz. The two played together and often leaned against one another.

"Rupert is three times bigger than Franz, but Franz played a leading role in their relationship," Zhang said. "Whenever Rupert showed any interest, she would leave leisurely and force Rupert to court her with a packet of straws."

Sadly, Franz was euthanized in October 2009 after severe abdominal pains caused by a bacterial infection got worse.

"Everyone in the center crowded around and knelt beside her when she was euthanized, and then we held her hand and told her how much we were going to miss her," Zhang said.

Half a year later, Rupert was gone as well.

The two were buried together, with the crosses in front of their tomb leaning toward each other.

Franzi and Rupert's tombs are two of 111 in the center. About a third of the bears have died of liver cancer.

By Li Zhixin

Last Saturday, Animal Asia Foundation (AAF) held a photo exhibition at the Capital Library and nominated film star Sun Li as the foundation's "love ambassador" to call on the public to reject the use of digestive juices from bears in medicine.

"Bile bears," as they're called, are bears that are caged in inhumane conditions so digestive juices can be extracted from their livers and gallbladders and used in traditional Chinese medicine.

The activity was a prelude for AAF's "love bear week" in Beijing.



Jill Robinson is the person behind the development of the Moon Rescue Center.

Photos provided by AAF



Chinese actress Sun Li was nominated as AAF's "love ambassador."

A British woman's persistence

The development of the Moon Rescue Center is largely the work of a British woman, Jill Robinson.

In 1993 Robinson, who had been working in Hong Kong as a consultant for the International Fund for Animal Welfare for more than a decade, visited a bear farm in Guangdong Province and saw more than she bargained for.

"I broke away from the group watching the breeding bears outside in a pit and found some steps leading downstairs into a basement," she recalled. "As my eyes became accustomed to the darkness, I heard some strange popping vocalizations in the background. The closer I crept to the noises, the louder and more frantic the sounds became."

"I realized then with shame that the very first lesson I would

learn from this intelligent, endangered species was the lesson of fear, and that the presence of a human being meant only pain to these animals. Caged, declawed and defanged, with metal catheters in their bellies, they had become nothing more than machines."

When she wandered around the dark room, she felt something gently touch her shoulder. As she turned around, she came face to face with a female bear that had stretched her paw through the bars of her cage.

"Probably foolishly in retrospect, I took her offered paw. Yet, rather than pulling my arm from its socket as she had every right to do, this powerful bear simply squeezed my fingers and our eyes connected," Robinson said.

This was the moment Robinson realized it would be her life's calling to save these bears. In 1998, she

founded AAF in Hong Kong.

AAF signed an agreement with China Wildlife Conservation Association and the Sichuan Forestry Department in July 2000 to free 500 bears in Sichuan Province and work toward eliminating all bear farms.

In 2002, the AAF established a moon bear rescue center in Longqiao, Sichuan Province. All rescued bears, from then on, would have a permanent shelter for treatment. For most of the bears – badly damaged after years of abuse – the center was a hospice in which to live out their final days.

In the last 11 years, the AAF has saved 227 bears and is working with the Chinese government to help bear farm owners quit the industry. When a farm is closed, the government turns its license over to AAF, and the farmers are compensated and given assistance finding new employment.

Although rescued bears cannot be released to the wild, having long lost their survival skills, their lives at the sanctuary are actually better than they would be in the wild.

Currently at the center, which costs \$80,000 a month to operate, more than 100 bears now roam between indoor stalls and outdoor play areas, hanging in basket beds and climbing on timber toys.

Respect life

During "love bear week," AAF is calling on the use of less expensive synthetic and herbal alterna-

tives to displace bear bile, which is thought to clear the liver and improve vision.

Zhang said the active ingredient in bear bile is ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA), but synthetic UDCA is now widely used, primarily to break down gallstones. Due to the availability of synthetic UDCA, there is now a surplus of bear bile.

"However, bear gallbladder medicines are still sold in the market as many people use bear gallbladder products as gifts for bribery," Zhang said. "Actually, no one knows whether it has health benefits or is effective or not. People just use it because it's rare and comes from nature."

Zhang said smuggling to South Korea and Japan is also common. "In Yanji, Jilin Province during the peak tourist season, a mass of South Koreans will come to the bear farms to collect products from private bear farms."

Zhang said bear gall medicines are less popular at drug stores, but they are usually introduced to patients by doctors in big hospitals, as some pharmaceutical companies have cooperative ties with hospitals.

"Many people, even some forestry officials in China, still look at animals as resources instead of living creatures," Zhang said. "We hope all people can refuse bear gallbladders products and help the government and the AAF to completely wipe out bear farms in China."

Sundance hopes to hear more China voices

By Han Manman

Sundance Institute, internationally recognized for its annual Sundance Film Festival and its ability to discover young documentary makers, just finished a two-week tour of China.

For the first time, Sundance has turned its eyes to China's documentary market, with the institute encouraging Chinese filmmakers to submit works to the Sundance Festival.

Invited by the US embassy in China, the institute's China tour, part of the Film Forward program, included documentary workshops with young Chinese filmmakers, presentations, screenings and discussions with filmmakers for university students.

Sundance's chief programmer and festival director, John Cooper, said "less commercial, more independent" is what makes Sundance stand out.

"We tend to look for young voices and fresh stories in both the American and international films," he said. "That's the reason we had the first China tour."

Cooper said he wants Sundance's visit to be a signal to everyone that they are looking for more Chinese voices.

During the China tour, several documentary makers that participated in last year's Sundance Festival presented their work and ideas, including Stanley Nelson, director of *Freedom Riders*; Kathryn Dean, producer of *Winter's Bone*; and Chinese filmmaker Fan Lixin, director of *Last Train Home*.

Dean said many of the young students she met in Beijing majoring in film were more interested in studio films.

"They wanted to know how to make money making films. One student even asked how one can win awards with a small-budget film," she said. "I hesitated, sensing a pretty clear tactic with this question."

Dean's answer to the stu-



Sundance invited directors Stanley Nelson, Kathryn Dean and Fan Lixin (left to right) to talk about the documentary experience with Chinese students. Photo by Meredith Lavitt

dent: "Magic."

"Because it is magic," she said. "Really great films are made all the time and disappear in a blink. Sometimes they just don't fall in the right year, don't get attention or are just unlucky in an already overwhelming year. Despite desperately wanting it, there is no way to plan against all odds and control or predict success."

"So you do what you know how to do. You find the story that is yours and you tell it as best you can. You work hard to be honest and articulate and edit yourself in a way that serves the visual storytelling."

Fan is one of the few Chinese directors to show at Sundance. His documentary will be the first independent Chinese film dealing with social and political issues to be commercially released in China later this year.

Last Train Home documents the world's largest human migration – the annual return home of some 130 million migrant workers for Spring Festival celebrations. Fan brings this mass exodus down to intimate scale as he follows a couple who has made the annual journey for almost 20 years.

The documentary touched audiences deeply when it was



A scene from *Last Train Home*

shown at Beijing Film Academy last weekend.

"The story represents a microcosm of huge societal change, and the end results are unpredictable," a student said afterwards. "This documentary goes above and beyond giving the simple facts; it's like a good piece of literature that shows the very tragic human costs of those who have and those who have not in a rapidly developing society that's in conflict with itself."

Fan said it's time for domestic independent documentary makers to show their talent at international film festivals, which is a bridge for world people to learn about China.

He said he wouldn't have had the chance to show at Sundance if not for his self-recommendation to the film committee.

"I found more and more international film festivals want to hear from China since the influence of the country has continued to rise," Fan said. "More international audiences are interested in China and interested in Chinese stories. This presents a golden opportunity for independent Chinese filmmakers."

Initiated by Sundance Institute and the US-based President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in 2007, Film Forward is a cultural exchange program designed to enhance cross-cultural understanding, collaboration and dialogue around the globe by influencing audiences through the exhibition of film and conversation with filmmakers.

This is the first time Film Forward has gone to China.

Hungary seeks all-round cooperation with China

By Li Zhixin

On Tuesday, Hungarian Minister of National Development Tamás Fellegi introduced Hungary's plans for cooperation with China and the results of his visit from April 16 to 22.

Fellegi, also the commissioner for Chinese-Hungarian Economic Relations – a newly established organ of the government – talked with high-ranking officials from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, Foreign Ministry, Railway Ministry, Transport Ministry, Aviation Authority and the Central Bank of China, and managers of numerous large corporations and investors in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shenzhen and Chongqing during his weeklong visit.

He said the two countries have mapped out cooperation opportunities in infrastructure, electronics, information technology, biotechnology, commercial, financial, aviation, nuclear security as well as research and development.

"The long-term economic interests between China and Hungary are similar, so we have a good foundation for further developing our bilateral relationship," the minister said.

"Of course, only strengthening economic and trade ties is not enough. To enhance mutual understanding, we will also work hard to improve culture, education and tourism exchange between the two countries."

In his trip to Chongqing, Fellegi visited the new offices of the local Hungarian consulate general, which processes visa applications according to the Schengen criteria.

"The office will be instrumental in the development of mutually beneficial business cooperation and investment projects between Hungary and Chongqing, and through this city, the entire inner China region," Fellegi said. "As a result of easier visa issues, the number of tourists, businessmen and investors arriving at Hungary, and through Hungary to Europe, may significantly increase."

On behalf of the Hungarian government, Fellegi welcomed Huawei, one of the leading telecommunication companies of China, to permanently relocate its supply center (which has been operating on a test basis) in Hungary. The minister said in his visit he also discussed further opportunities for the extension of cooperation with Huawei's top management.

Italian filmmakers and composers to shine at Beijing International Film Festival



Nicola Piovani Photo by Luo Rui

By Chu Meng

A delegation of Venice International Film Festival committee members and Italian mainstream filmmakers and composers will attend the first film gala in Beijing next week, the cultural counselor of the Italian embassy in China, Barbara Alighiero, said on Monday.

The counselor said the director of the Venice Film Festival, Marco Muller, will open the inaugural Beijing International Film Festival at the National Center for the Performing Arts tomorrow.

Award-winning directors from the 67th Venice Film Festival 2010 – Marco Bellocchio, Paolo Benvenuti, Paola Baroni – will lead a one-week film exhibition at the Italian embassy from Monday to Sunday.

Meanwhile, world-renowned film composer and conductor for *Life Is Beautiful*, Nicola Piovani, will conduct the Italian Film Symphony Orchestra in a concert on Tuesday.

Piovani is a classical, theater and film composer, and winner of the 1998 Best Original Dramatic Score Oscar for the score for Roberto Benigni's *La Vita è Bella – Life Is Beautiful*.

This will be the 67-year-old's first visit to China. Piovani has more than 130 film scores to his credit, but he believes "too many film scores makes a composer a hack. Craftsmanship is most important."

Considering both the number of films and box office sales have increased in China in recent years, Piovani predicted a "world-

renowned film symphony and professional film composers' team will soon form in China."

In light of his recent work with French directors, the French Minister of Culture gave Piovani knighthood at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival.

"Great film music flows naturally out of great films themselves," Piovani said. "I can hear such melody flowing when I see a thought-provoking scene of a film. As a composer, I am just writing such flows down as scores."

Directors of 22 international film festivals will attend a forum called "Dialogue Between Directors of International Film Festivals" to exchange ideas and discuss the relationship between films and urban development.

Philanthropic concert for Chinese orphans

By Zhang Dongya

Celebrated French counter-tenor Sébastien Fournier and children from Bethel China Foundation offered a family concert at Yishu 8 Gallery last Sunday.

The concert's name, "Love is Blind," is the same name of a Bethel project to provide foster care, education and professional training for Chinese orphans who are blind or visually impaired.

Eight children dressed in costumes performed songs including *Amazing Grace* and *Lean On Me*. Bethel's founders, Guillaume Gauvain and his wife, Delphine Gauvain, played the piano and sang songs.

"[It was a] great concert. I enjoyed this one, and I have been to several good places in Beijing," said Gao Hongfa, 11.

Bethel, founded in 2002, now has 46 children, with the youngest only a year old. This year, six visually impaired children came to Bethel as the newest members. Their curriculum includes Braille, foreign languages, music and science. Apart from local and expat volunteers, Bethel has teachers come from training schools for autistic children in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province.

"The major task is still to collect more money for the children," Delphine Gauvain said. "Besides, we are trying to develop more skills and seek more opportunities suitable for them. They could do more



Yishu 8 Gallery hosts a family concert by French countertenor Sébastien Fournier (back row, right) and children from Bethel China Foundation.

Photo provided by Yishu 8 Gallery

than just be masseuses."

Gauvain said one of the people in Bethel, 22, is now training as a receptionist at Hilton Hotel in Beijing. Another, 20 years old, is preparing to study in the US.

The organization is also making an effort to make money on its own. During the concert, the children brought organic eggs and vegetables came from Fangshan, the Beijing west suburb,

which takes more than one hour drive to the city. A group of taxi drivers in west part of the city volunteer to ride them downtown every time.

The children have also learned to make jewelry such as earrings and necklaces, and scarves. CDs of their performances were also for sale.

A shop will soon be opened to sell the children's handicrafts,

including T-shirts and paintings.

Guillaume Gauvain said they plan to open the second school for orphans in south China for children who are blind or autistic.

The box office collected about 8,000 yuan from the concert, donated to Bethel. The performance was sponsored by French telecom magnate Orange.

For more information, check bethelchina.org.

The 3rd Beijing Improv Arts Festival opens

By Li Zhixin

On the eve of the Beijing Improv Interactive Arts Festival, a group of improv fans gathered at Siif Bar on Beiluoguan Xiang on Tuesday night for a warm-up.

The festival features five evenings of improv comedy shows and two days of creative interactive art workshops. This year marks the first time that improv groups from Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong and Shanghai will participate in the festival.

Jenny Jang, the senior manager of a market research company and head of Seoul City Improv (SCI), which was established in 2007, said in South Korea, improv acts have yet to gain popularity.

She said there are only two improv groups in Seoul. One is English-spoken SCI, another is a Korean-spoken improv group that just started a month ago. "The participants of the improv performances are mainly expats in South Korea, especially English teachers," she said.

Kevin Brennenman, another member of SCI, said they try to promote the art among local students majoring in English.

In Beijing, there are at least a dozen troupes that do improv, including Beijing Improv, Bilingual



Improv fans gather at Siif Bar in Beiluoguan Xiang

Photo provided by Beijing Improv

Improv Group, People's Republic of Improv, Cheeky Monkey, Improv Pekin, Beijing Dance and People's Liberation Improv. "The improv performance is very popular among office workers in Beijing as many participants use the art to relieve stress, improve their presentation skills or coordination skills, as well as meet new friends,"

said Liu Guanni, a member of Beijing Improv.

Pete Grella, a member of Take-out Comedy in Hong Kong, said he will introduce creative interactive art workshops to Hong Kong to attract more locals to participate.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit festival.beijingimprov.org

Beijing Improv Festival

Where: Penghao Theater off Nanlougu Xiang (next to the Central Academy of Drama)

When: April 20-24

Cost: 50 yuan suggested donation for entry (all proceeds benefit HuaDan, a community theater NGO)

Event

Lecture - Chinese housing market

Skyscraping property prices have created serious problems for society. The issue has long been the focus of media attention, but despite recent macroeconomic policy alterations by the government, housing prices continue to rise. Steven Du, managing director of Asia Capital Holdings, will talk about the above questions.

Where: Tim's Texas Bar-B-Q, 14 Dongdaqiao Lu (on the corner of Guanghua Lu), Chaoyang District

When: April 23, 2-5 pm

Cost: 80 yuan

Cooking workshop - taste of Beijing

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP) and The Hutong are holding a collaborative cooking event themed "Beijing local dishes." Fresh and seasonal local ingredients will be used to produce three Old Beijing dishes: stir-fried fermented tofu paste, mustard paste with cabbage and Beijing-style noodles with soybean paste. This will be an informative cooking class because stories related to the dishes and recipes will be told.

Where: The Hutong, 1 Jiudaowan Zhongxiang Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: April 23, 3-5 pm

Tel: 15901046127

Cost: 240 yuan, 200 yuan for CHP and The Hutong members

Planting and BBQ

Beaonline.org, with 37 branches around the world, is an online community devoted to uniting young professionals around charitable causes. Its Beijing branch is organizing a tree-planting event this spring.

Where: Tree-planting will take place at Cherry Park, Huairou District; the barbecue will be at Yanqihu, Huairou District

When: April 24, 8:20 am - 5:30 pm

Tel: 13718013858

Cost: less than 150 yuan

Jewelry-making course

The Shou Designers' Academy is well known for offering jewelry-making courses from basic to professional and graduate level workshops for more than eight years in Beijing. Its weekend course led by Denise Chong-Lewis happens every Saturday, teaching how to make simple everyday jewelry.

Where: Jamaica Blue Cafe, Shop 115 Park Avenue, 6 Chaoyanggongyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Saturday, 2-5 pm

Email: deniseinbeijing@gmail.com

Cost: 500 yuan per workshop

(By Liang Meilan)

Inaugural Beijing film festival set to begin

By Zhao Hongyi

The 1st Beijing International Film Festival is set to open tomorrow, with 160 films from 42 countries shown in 20 cinemas across the city, according to sources from the festival's organizing committee.

The films include recent Oscar winners such as *Black Swan* and *The Social Network*, and the best film at Cannes 2010: *Poetry*.

An estimated 70,000 people will attend the festival's opening ceremony.

Local films will be priced at no more than 20 yuan, and foreign films no more than 40 yuan, the festival committee said.

Organized by the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television and the Beijing Municipality, the festival will run until April 28. A group of selected films will be available online between April 20 and 29. All films will eventually be available to buy in Beijing within the next three months.

More than 800 films were considered for the festival, representing the best and latest from the industry in several countries.

Local films include *City Image - Beijing* and *Jiafang Yifang* by director Feng Xiaogang. Overseas films are categorized into Russian, Asia and Africa, European, American and documentaries.

Two best film winners - *The Same War*, honored at the Berlin International Film Festival - and *Brestskaya Krepost* - the best movie from the Russia Film Festival -



Black Swan is scheduled to show during the festival.

Photo provided by Google.com

will be shown.

The 20 cinemas where moviegoers can catch these films are scattered across the city, including in huge residential communities like Huilongguang and Majiabao in the northeast, and near Wukesong in the southwest.

Top Chinese directors, including Feng

Xiaogang, Han Shanping and Lu Chuan, and directors from Hong Kong such as John Woo and Peter Chan, will participate in the festival.

Other guests include Venice Film Festival chairman Mark Muller, Berlin International Film Festival chairman Thomas Hailer and Tokyo International Film Festival chairman Tatsumi Yoda.

While this is the first time Beijing has hosted an international film festival, the Shanghai International Film Festival has been ongoing since 1993.

More details of the cinemas and films are available on the official website bjiff.com.

Below are four cinemas that are expat-friendly.

China National Film Museum

Add: 9 Nangao Lu, Chaoyang District (northeast corner of Wuyuan Qiao)

Tel: 8435 5959

UME Cineplex (Shuangjing)

Add: 5th and 6th floor, Viva R&F Plaza, Dong Sanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5903 7171

Polybna Cineplex

Add: Ground floor, You-Town Lifestyle Center, 2 Sanfeng Bei Li, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5977 5610

Broadway China Star City

Add: BB65, Underground, Oriental Plaza, Dong Chang'an Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 8518 6778

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I'm marrying a Chinese guy next year in Beijing and I'm already preparing for the big day. We've decided on a Western ceremony and reception. Can you recommend some wedding planners?

Below are agencies with bilingual service. You should book the planner at least six months before the wedding.

Dahuaajiao Wedding Service Center

Where: 464 Dongsu Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6404 3350

Jiufangzhou Wedding Culture Service Center

Where: 149 Dian'men Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 8401 9067

Xishangxi Wedding Service Agency

Where: 3/F, Heping Xincheng Building A, 30 Heping Li Jie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8421 9320

Do you know of a climbing gym within Fifth Ring Road that is suitable for workouts?

Try Ole Climbing, which has a lot of indoor facilities: a huge bouldering area, a slackline section and a 12-meter indoor top rope and lead wall. During the winter it boasts heated floors. You will meet climbers of different levels, ages and nationalities, and the staff is well trained and very helpful. It also rents out and sells climbing equipment.

Where: 5 Shimencun Lu, Baizhiwan Qiao Dong, Dong Sihuan, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am - 9 pm

Tel: 5128 2825 / 6776 0608

Web: oleclimbing.com
(By Liang Meilan)

Free venue available for NGOs

By Liang Meilan

A spacious 750-square-meter activity center recently opened at the north end of the basement of Workers Gymnasium. Run by the creative company iRENA, the center is free to use for NGOs.

Decorated as a large meeting hall, the place can hold more than 200 people. There are 100 chairs, six sets of sofa, microphones and projectors.

The company began providing the venue in February, and it is booked through April. NGOs should try to reserve the space 15 days in advance.

Inside the basement next to the meeting hall is an installation called *Sunshine in the Dark*, allowing visitors the chance to experience how the blind perceive the everyday world.

The creative space aims to raise awareness of the city's blind. Another purpose is to give employment to the blind.

Ticket sales help cover the costs of the meeting hall.

Committed to becoming a socially responsible company, iRENA is in the business of empowering creative designers and organizations. Regarding the

use of its meeting hall, it has just one requirement: that NGOs come up with creative ideas while in their meetings.

Where: Workers Gymnasium, 1 Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6551 8509

Ticket for *Sunshine in the Dark*: 120 yuan, 60 yuan per person for groups of 10

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By Han Minmin

While the world art industry struggles to recover from a crippling economic downturn, China's burgeoning contemporary scene is finding success at all levels. Artists, curators and investors all stand to make a killing on the new boom.

The 2011 China International Gallery Exposition (CIGE), this year's window into the market, is expected to draw even more attention. The annual event, which opened yesterday, has brought together more than 60 thriving modern art galleries from all over Asia.

Energizing art

China's top art fair favors Asian contemporary



This year's China International Gallery Exposition is an important step for creator and director Wang Yihan, the woman who paved the way for China's first art fair.

Once a fair that brought the best of Western art to Asia, CIGE has become a pilgrimage site for Asia's contemporary art juggernauts looking to showcase their work to the world. The exhibition opened in Beijing for the first time in 2004 as an art fair for big-spending collectors looking to buy world art at home. But the economic crisis of 2008 crushed this market, hard.

In the following years, the foreign galleries quit coming and the investors quit buying. A slow gloom crept over the international art scene, and CIGE shrank.

But the market was beginning to change. The major change in our country will be changing CIGE's previous focus on Western art to Asian art – especially Chinese art," Wang said. The change is in many ways a response to the strong growth of the Chinese art community, which has become a powerhouse on the auction circuit.

"The Chinese art market has really developed a lot in the past few years, but a crucial component – the galleries – has not really been able to catch up," Wang said.

She said many Chinese galleries have failed to seize on the new market boom, preferring to play it safe rather than expand.

"In fact, the entire market chain is still 'unhealthy.' In the recent past, the market was relatively chaotic and plagued by volatile price fluctuations, with both good pieces and garbage being traded on equal footing," she said.

But this kind of chaotic market makes collectors nervous, and that has led to a decline in art sales, where a trend of continual, but low-level, progress, Wang said.

This year's art fair puts quality over quantity, with stricter requirements for pieces, she said.

"We are choosing quality pieces – the kinds that distinguish the portfolio of an established artist. This is not to say that new, cutting-edge artists are not good. Rather, they are still developing and they will be the ones we exhibit in the future," she said.

"We also recognize that putting on a great exhibition is far more important than being international. High standards pave the road for more good art. The structure of this year's art fair will have a significant impact on art in Asia," she said.

In order to further raise the quality of the fair, CIGE reserved a special area to showcase the strongest works by established artists in Asia, with most of the works being valued at \$1 million or more.

Wang said more than 80 percent of the participating galleries are from China, with the rest from India, South Korea and Japan.

Among the top Chinese works are Wang Fenghua's oil paintings from the Taipei-based Gallery J. Chen, which use glass-walled skyscrapers as a symbol of urban modernization. Heilaine's glass-scarred buildings are mysterious and cool, their brilliant blue and white colors reflecting the light. Chen's white, while those behind the windows enjoy an unobstructed view of the external world. The floating mirror images are over-

changing, displaying scenes from the developing city and society, some happy and some sad," the painter said, explaining his work.

The glass panels are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, he said. Insecurity and uncertainty are the other pieces of the puzzle that make up the modern city, an enormous machine which nothing can stop.

Internationally recognized painter Yang Shuobin will show his new works depicting the changing social landscapes of the world. Born in 1963, Yang is best-known for his red portraits of children and his depictions of deformed or sinister creatures in the bleak world of coal mining.

In the 1980s, Yang was part of a Beijing art community that included Fang Lijun and Yue Minjun. His work was selected in 1999 for the Venice Biennale. Influenced by Francis Bacon and Arnulf Rainer, his images are popular in Europe. He creates with the intent of eliciting discomfort or painful feelings in the viewer.

Yang's first of his Hong Kong pop star whose name is now best associated with a sex photo scandal three years ago, will also participate in CIGE as an installation artist.

There are also some highlighted works coming in from other Asian countries, such as Indian artist Chintan Upadhyay's "Take Me Home," presented by Sakshi Gallery.

"Take Me Home" is about babies and Indian culture. Babies have been the focus of Chintan's works in recent years, and their image has achieved an almost brand-like status.

The babies, mostly male infants, appear provocative and titillating with tattoos based on ancient Indian imagery.

"The idea was that whenever anything happens, good or bad, infants are the first and the most seriously affected. These babies are the lead actors at all my shows. I hope they can become as iconic as Spiderman and Superman," the artist said.

Japanese photographer Nobuyoshi Araki's work will also show during the fair. Araki is Japan's most notable and controversial photographer, whose works always focus on the themes of sex, life and death.

His pictures of Lady Gaga – presented by Tokyo-based Tada Ishii Gallery – are part of "Photographs of a Seventy-Year-Old," a series to celebrate his 70th birthday in 2010. "Lady Gaga's hair, her clothes, her attitude, her attitude, she is all tied up, you can't hold her down," said Chen Jin, an Araki fan.

5



About CIGE

CIGE is an annual contemporary arts fair supported by the Ministry of Culture that seeks to internationalize the local art environment.

This year's session will host 60 galleries, mainly from Asia, in its 10,000-square-meter space in the China World Trade Center Exhibition Hall. Works will include both modern and contemporary pieces in photography, video, painting, sculpture, mixed media, installation, print, digital, textile and design.

The fair is organized by the China International Gallery Shows Mapping Asia, which hosts 10 solo shows for young and emerging artists in Asia, and Subliminals, featuring 10 not-for-sale projects by non-profit organizations and cultural centers.

China International Gallery Exposition 2011

Where: China International Trade Center Exhibition Hall, 1 Jiangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: April 22-24, 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free, 25 yuan for students

Tel: 6409 6687

1. White House by Yin Lei

2. Large Glass by Nobuyoshi Araki

3. Taking Me Home by Chintan Upadhyay

4. Green Wall by Zhao Xiangang

Photos provided by CIGE



Immigrant artist loves her homeland

By Charles Zhu

When an earthquake hit the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, Haitian-American novelist Edwidge Danticat was "writing, quietly, quietly" at home in the US.

The writer, who has lived in the US since the age of 12, had a sense of guilt about the experience. "While we are at work, bodies are littering the streets somewhere. People are buried under rubble somewhere. Mass graves are being dug somewhere."

The writer has a special link to her homeland in the title essay of her new non-fiction collection, *Create Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work*. The collection, published by Princeton University Press, is a book of new essays adapted and updated from the Toni Morrison Lecture she gave in 2008 at Princeton University and expanded with her writing for the *New Yorker*, the *Progressive* and some other journals.

Efforts to contrast and bridge life in the US and Haiti are the subject of the 12 short pieces in *Create Dangerously*. When she is writing about a valiant Haitian photojournalist, or about a visit to relatives in a rural village, or when she is commenting on the career of 1980s art star Jean-Michel Basquiat, who was born in New York to a Puerto Rican mother and a Haitian father, she is filled with a sense of responsibility as a part of what is called the diaspora of more than 1 million people in New York, Florida, Montreal and Paris.

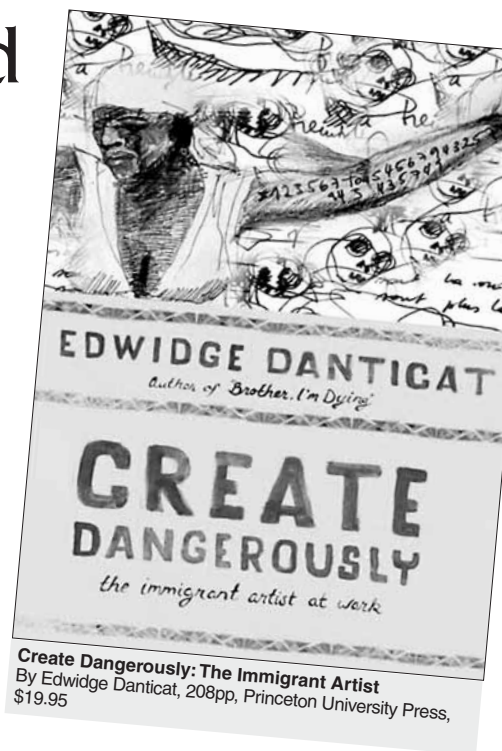
In the book's second essay, "Walk Straight," the author, who is "anguished by my own sense of guilt," recalls overhearing a Haitian say of her work, "The things she writes, they are not us." She was called "parasite" that makes use of her culture "for money and what passes for fame." In response to such criticisms, she says that the only alternative for an immigrant writer is self-censorship and silence.

The book begins with a retelling of an execution on November 12, 1964. On that day, two pine poles were erected outside the national cemetery in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and a huge crowd gathered to witness an execution at the order of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier. The two men to be executed were Marcel Numa and Louis Drouin, both of whom had left their hometown of Jeremie on Haiti's southern peninsula to study and work in the US.

While there, they became part of Jeune Haiti, a CIA-supported group of 13 men bent on overthrowing Duvalier. They landed in Haiti and fought a guerrilla war in the mountains for three months until 11 of them were hunted down.

This dark story has always been on the mind of the author. It has become an almost mythical symbol of the author's Haiti.

The heroic deeds of the two martyrs are woven throughout the book. People cannot help talking about them, remembering them and mentioning them in daily life. This ever-lasting connection is important to Danticat as a writer.



Danticat writes in her essay, "All artists, writers among them, have several stories – one might call them creation myths – that haunt and obsess over them. This is one of mine. I don't even remember when I first heard about it. I feel as though I have always known it, having filled in the curiosity-driven details through photographs, newspaper and magazine articles, books and films as I have gotten older."

"If we think back to the biggest creation myth of all, the

world's very first people, Adam and Eve, disobeyed the superior being that fashioned them out of chaos, defying God's order not to eat what must have been the world's most desirable apple," she wrote.

"We, the storytellers of the world, ought to be more grateful than most that banishment, rather than execution, was chosen for Adam and Eve," she wrote, "for had they been executed, there would never have been another story told, no stories to pass on."

German Ph.D believes in the Tao of business

By Zhang Dongya

Laozi's *Dao De Jing* has been hailed as a classic of ancient Chinese wisdom and philosophy for more than 2,000 years. But now the ancient philosopher's thoughts are being applied to a new area of life: business.

German writer Ansgar Gerstner sees Taoist philosophy as having a crucial role in modern business management and is attempting to introduce it to foreign businesspeople in his new book, *The Tao of Business*.

Gerstner, an expert in Taoist philosophy with a Ph.D in Chinese studies from Trier University, is fascinated by what he says is a relationship between the Tao and business.

"The Tao is mainly about long-term strategies and long-term execution. It is about agility. It is about sustainable utilization of potential. And it is about far-sighted and proactive

actions. All this is business-related," he said.

In his book, he cites the original text and retranslates it to fit business strategic terminology. He occasionally draws on his experience as a martial arts instructor to give colorful examples.

Opposing the ubiquitous "diligence view," Gerstner advocates "using as little effort as possible."

He cited an example from martial arts: when you throw a punch and you are trying too hard, it is easy to see what you are up to and eliminates any possibility for surprise. Trying too hard also causes you to tense up, reducing the impact of your blow.

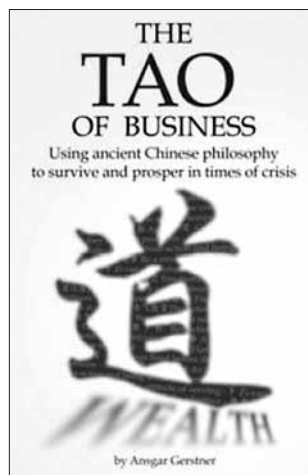
Much of his ink is devoted to arguing in favor of *wuwei*, or non-action, an important concept in both the Tao and business. He interprets its principle as being about personal development and supporting people to achieve their

potential. On an individual level, business leaders are told to always remember to make the best use of employee potential instead of taking action, which may result in them appearing as meddling or demanding.

The author tried to make a connection between things in the world of business and ancient Chinese tradition, helping foreign readers gain a better understanding of the latter.

Talking about *feng shui*, he cited a survey which has underlined the importance of office design for job engagement and productivity.

Like the *Dao De Jing*'s style, which is written to be succinct yet thought-provoking, Gerstner's book is written in persuasive but simple language. It reminds people of simple truths and offers those unfamiliar with the Tao quick access to the best related literary masterpieces.



The Tao of Business
By Ansgar Gerstner, 184pp,
Earnshaw Books, \$19.99

Trends Lounge book listing

Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of books about international art, design and architecture.



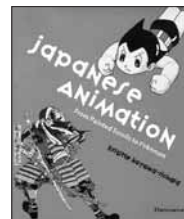
Guy Bourdin: In Between
By Guy Bourdin, 272pp, Steidl, \$58

This monograph reassembles many of the original editorial layouts as they were published in magazines such as *French Vogue*, *British Vogue*, and *Harper's Bazaar*, offering a new and illuminating critical look at the process. It delves into Bourdin's career, charting the course of his artistic development from the 1950s into the 1980s with more than 200 exceptional images.



Art Photography Now
By Susan Bright, 224pp, Aperture, \$50

Not only are major international museums and galleries mounting blockbuster exhibitions, but art photographers are also being celebrated as contemporary masters and their work commands unprecedented prices. This collection presents the work of 76 of the most important and best-known art photographers, including Andreas Gursky, Thomas Struth, Cindy Sherman, Jeff Wall, Sophie Calle, Wolfgang Tillmans, Nan Goldin, Martin Parr, Allan Sekula, Boris Mikhailov, Inez van Lamsweerde and Sam Taylor-Wood.



Japanese Animation: From Painted Scrolls to Pokemon
By Brigitte Koyama-Richard, 248pp, Flammarion, \$49.95

A dominant force in its home country since the 1970s, Japanese animation has become a global phenomenon in recent years. But far from being a contemporary invention, anime draws on the same centuries-old artistic traditions that form the basis of manga. Widely disparaged when it first appeared in the West, today the real value of Japanese animation is recognized, and it has inspired international film directors. The author studies the evolution of Japanese animation through the centuries, retracing its history from painted scrolls to woodblock prints to animated films.

(By He Jianwei)

One-piece dress
by student

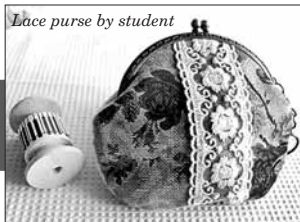
Grassroots sewing students design their dreams

By Chu Meng

Twenty years ago, most Chinese women were able to moonlight as their family's tailor. But with grandma's sewing machine in the antique store and the family's embroidery needles turned to rust, such teniques are fading from the young generation.

In that gap lies an opportunity for independent tailors looking to continue old traditions.

Lace purse by student



Vivian Zhang, 27, is a fashion maniac. She collects all the fashion magazines available in Beijing and never misses any of the luxury brands' fashion shows every spring and autumn.

Milan International Fashion Week is her dream event.

But after several months of finding herself penniless after blowing all her money on the latest inventory at Zara, Levi's and Juicy Couture, she began looking for cheaper fashion options.

But low cost usually means low quality – something Zhang says is intolerable. Worse yet, her years of collecting had made it difficult to find any designs, styles, colors or textures that weren't already part of her wardrobe.

Gradually, Zhang warmed up to the idea of sewing her own clothes. Three months ago, she enrolled in Beijing Sewing Class, a private hobby group that aims to turn aspiring seamstresses into master tailors.

Located in an office building near the new CCTV Tower, the one-room studio has 10 professional sewing machines and a huge cutting table in the middle of the room. Hundreds of paper patterns for beautiful clothes with lace trim, buttons and cotton thread hang from the ceiling.

Gan Youling organizes the two-year-old group. When *Beijing Today* visited her studio on Monday, she was instructing four new students with the help of one experienced tailor.

Gan, 32, studied dress design while in college. She went to work as a trainer for pattern designers at a southern China factory after graduating in 2006.

"Most of those pattern makers got their start on the production line as teens. They never had any professional training, so their pattern techniques were learned on the job. I really respected them because even in their 20s they were working toward becoming independent designers," she says, recalling her days in the grassroots industry.

Local shopping malls and clothing markets sell more clothing from local brands than they did a decade ago, when foreign labels dominated, she says.

"That's because these local labels have grown out of the factories. In China, these people who mastered the skills on the job account for 90 percent of our designers. There is a burning need for people who are willing to educate themselves to design using professional techniques and knowledge," she says.

She said she refers to China's designers who show off their works on the international stage "clothing design-

ers" rather than "fashion designers."

"Chinese clothing designers are far from comparable with real fashion designers like John Galiano for Christian Dior. Cultural differences and the meager economic strength of our fashion industry are for one reason. But another reason is a mostly empty grassroots talent pool," she says.

"Brilliant minds need a large foundation to build on. Professional education will only meet a fraction of their needs."

Her private sewing class has been attempting to bridge the gap between education and training since 2009.



A student works on a sewing machine.

Since the beginning, Gan has run her group like a professional. She hires experienced tailors and pattern makers from clothing factories she trusts to train the students in small groups of three to five people.

The textbooks she uses teach the standard university curriculum, and her courses span four levels: elementary, medium, senior and advanced.

The difficulty of the garments increases with each level. Elementary students learn to make one- and two-piece dresses, and senior students master four-piece dresses and more complicated clothes such as men's suits and party costumes.

Each class level involves 30 hours of instruction. All levels teach basic fashion, pattern and embroidery design, as well as color and texture theory.

Gan says some office workers who discovered her class as a curiosity have gone from making their own simple clothes to living their dream of fashion design. One student who opened a store on Nanluogu Xiang sold 20 original skirts in one night, and another student received a scholarship offer from the University of the Arts, London to enroll in its fashion and design program.

Work by a student
photos provided by Gan Youling

DIY Shops

Miss Cherry cloth supermarket

This Taobao store has been around for seven years and has a reputation for supplying costume materials to the film industry. It also supplies many interior design companies with natural fabrics for furnishing.

Tucked away on its virtual shelves are high-quality fabrics and cloths suitable for home furnishing and dressmaking. They are manufactured for export to Japan and Europe.

Many of its fabrics and cloths feature patterns similar to the latest from international fashion shows.

The store owner can arrange to have your order cut into curtains and upholstery.

Web:

misscherry.taobao.com

Tel: 18821074231

Open: 10 am - midnight

Kapok Cloth Store

Though a recent arrival to Taobao, Kapok is the best for purchasing lace trim and ribbons: the finishing touches of contemporary fashion and home decor.

You can easily kill an entire afternoon browsing its appliques lace and Venice lace. Kapok also provides festival-themed home decoration accessories for Christmas, Easter and Valentine's Day.

Web:

shop36326190.taobao.com

Tel: 13402056134

Beijing Jingdu Textile Market

Located outside South Third Ring Road, Jingdu is the biggest cloth and clothing accessories wholesale market in the city. It is material heaven for professional tailors and fashion designers.

You can easily find all kinds of things that can be adapted for daily dress like belt buckle fasteners, frog fasteners, zippers, bows, ribbons, buttons, elastic trim, suspenders and shoe strings.

All the stuffs is sold in bulk at unbelievably cheap prices. Its high-quality silk, wool and handmade linens sell for hundreds of yuan per meter.

Where: Muxuyuan commercial area, Nanshanhuan Zhong Lu, Fengtai District

Open: 5 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6722 4495

Latest styles from Hong Kong

By Annie Wei

More and more women are choosing to shop at "fast fashion" stores like Zara and H&M, or specific boutiques that have more affordable items with styles that are increasingly trendy.

Fablane fits the mold. Its opening was the dream of two young women, Zhao Qiong, a former TV reporter from Hunan Province, and Echo Li, who lives in Hong Kong with her husband and son.

"I have been thinking of opening a fashion boutique for a long time," Zhao said. At first she wanted to be a dealer for a South Korean brand, but she realized that operating a store in Beijing while purchasing products from another city was too exhausted.

She instead went to Li, who Zhao calls her "best friend and someone I can totally trust," and shared her idea of opening a boutique.

The two found they had similar ideas about running a business. Zhao became responsible for scouting locations, decorating the interior and training staff, while Li was put in charge of obtaining products and accessories.

"We can talk very directly with each other and we will not feel uncomfortable with it," Zhao said.

The advantage of having a trusty partner based in Hong Kong is that Li has access to the latest international products not yet available in Beijing's malls.

There is a time lag between Hong Kong's fashion and Beijing's, Zhao said. The women are careful to not introduce items that have yet to be accepted on the mainland, like only wearing a T-shirt with leggings.

"You can find different styles that are very 'in' right now in our store," Zhao said.

Popular items include candy-colored shoes (1,000 yuan), colorful bags from Kate Spade (starting from 2,000 yuan), a Pinko bag in the Hermes style (980 yuan), lace dress (500 yuan), jumpsuit (starting from 1,000 yuan), leopard dress from D&G (700 yuan) and a long one-piece dress (500 yuan).



①



②



New arrival accessories



③



④



⑤



⑥



⑦



⑧

1. Pink dress, 498 yuan
2. Green long dress, 698 yuan
3. Gucci dress, starting from 2,000 yuan
4. Lace bag, starting from 400 yuan
5. Blue leggings, 258 yuan
6. Jumpsuits, starting from 1,000 yuan
7. Shoes, starting from 500 yuan
8. Necklace, 300 yuan; handbag, 300 yuan

Photos provided by Zhao Qiong

Fablane

Where: Building 17,
Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu,
Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am - 10 pm
Tel: 15313126163

Beijing Today welcomes product and store recommendations from our readers. Please contact Annie Wei at weiyang@ynet.com.

Sometimes for food, less is more

By Annie Wei

No fancy ingredients, arty spaces or comprehensive menus. Sometimes the simple things in life provide the best pleasures, as *Beijing Today* learned.

Single-origin coffee – for the true coffee lover

Since opening last July, Fisheye Café, a white-and-blue 70-square-meter coffee shop at Sanlitun Village, has been packed with customers on weekdays.

Owner Fish Sun, a self-proclaimed coffee addict and entrepreneur, is very picky with his beans, which are stored only 10 to 14 days before being discarded. He and his partners are true coffee experts, and it's beginning to show.

Two new Fishnet Café stores recently opened: one in a high-profile Shanghai shopping mall, and the other inside Taobao's headquarters – where 10,000 people work – in Hangzhou. With his newfound success, Sun decided it was time his first store in Beijing received a treat: single-origin coffee.

Unlike blended coffee – which is the type most people drink – single-origin coffee beans come from the same region and are harder to find at regular cafes.

"Like wine, the taste of coffee can differ not only from country to country, but coffee farm to coffee farm," Sun said.

Sun and his colleagues believe coffee tasting is comparable to wine tasting. They like trying different single-origin coffees and comparing their strength, aroma, color, richness and aftertaste.

If you think an expensive coffeemaker is all you need to make good coffee, you're mistaken. For single-origin coffees, a barista – an Italian word that refers to coffeehouse employees who are coffee experts – are required.

Baristas know about extraction times, water temperatures, the amount of milk frothing, information about the beans, length of roasting, storage and more.

Fisheye Café's barista goes by the nickname Damao. He uses 25 grams of coffee power and 380 grams of water and requires four minutes to prepare a cup of coffee.

"In many Japanese coffee bars, customers can chat with a barista when the latter is manually brewing a cup of coffee," Sun said.

Single-origin coffee does not come cheap. The price for a cup is around 60 yuan.

We tried the Columbia Le Esperanza – the beans are from trees grown at 1,650 meters above sea level. The coffee package said the beans are wash processed, fermented for 24 to 30 hours, sundried on raised screens with parabolic covers, protected from rain. The coffee is sweet and creamy, with flavors of butterscotch, Danish pastry, dried stonefruits and a lavender finish.

We thought it smelled and tasted like roasted sweet potatoes.

"The result is from skilled coffee bean roasting, which maintains the coffee's sugar percentage," Damao said.

Fisheye Café plans to change its single-origin coffee beans every quarter. "Because we only want to use the most seasonal coffee beans," Sun said.

The iced coffee is also worth trying. Unlike iced coffees from other stores that simply put ice cubes into brewed coffee, Fisheye Café's iced coffee is made overnight using special equipment.

Iced, purified water is poured on ground coffee with a filter and set to drain overnight. "In this way, the iced coffee will taste much crisper," Sun said.

The coffee shop has six single-origin coffee beans available now.

Fisheye Café

Where: First Floor, S1, The Sanlitun Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6417 2588



Single-origin coffee being served at Fisheye Café

Photo provided by Fish Sun



Fisheye Café plans to open a coffee bar similar to Ritual Coffee in San Francisco.

Photo by tonx from Flickr/Ritual Coffee

More about single-origin coffees

El Silencio, Colombia

On the steep slopes outside of San Agustín, Huila, Remigio Quinayas produces these Caturra trees on his three-hectare farm, El Silencio, 1,740 meters above sea level. Juicy and fruity, like a fruit cocktail, with flavors of Concord grape, blueberry, honeydew and strawberry shortcake.

Sweet Tooth Orquidea, Colombia

It comes from La Plata, where farmers produce Caturra trees on their farms, La Orquidea and El Guamo, at 1,780 to 1,980 meters above sea level. The coffee is processed in the traditional washed method – pulped and fermented to remove the outer and inner layers of fruit – before the beans are sundried. The espresso has beautiful floral qualities reminiscent of gardenia and lilac. In the cup, berry and grapefruit notes intensify, giving way to a predominantly cherry flavor, finishing sweet and clean.

Serra Negra, Brasil

Pedro Rossi grows these Red Catuan cherries on his 100-hectare farm, Serra Negra, 1,200 meters above sea level near the town of Patrocínio in the Cerrado growing region of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Due to the relatively flat landscape of the farm, the coffee cherries are allowed to dry on the tree before being collected by harvesters. The coffee is then sorted and laid out on concrete patios to finish drying. It yields a sweet cup, with flavors of chocolate ice cream and walnuts, with a ripe cantaloupe acidity.

Fazenda do Sertao, Brazil

Outside the town of Carmo de Minas in the southern part of the state of Minas Gerais, the Pereira family has been cultivating coffee for more than 100 years. Grown at an average of 1,200 meters above sea level, this Yellow Bourbon variety offers up a very round and sweet cup, with floral aromas and flavors of cherry and plum.

Homemade Japanese dishes

Sushi and sashimi are not what Japanese families eat every day. After living 10 years in Beijing, a Japanese man, Suzuki and his friends, a Chinese couple, decided to open a small eatery, Suzuki Kitchen, near Nanluogu Xiang, to present authentic and simple homemade Japanese dishes to local diners.

The most popular dishes are the curry meat and rice (20 to 25 yuan). We recommend its chicken curry (20 yuan). The grilled chicken and curry are prepared separately. The tender chicken is placed on top of curry and served on rice.

Preparing Japanese curry takes a long time. Vegetables and fruits cooked in it may seem to melt, but they still taste very fruity, with a plum flavor.

The servings are big. A 20-yuan mushroom curry can fill one's stomach quickly. Many young people like sharing a bowl of salad (20-25 yuan).

The owner does not want to make imitation Japanese food. Therefore, he is selective with ingredients, kitchenware and even water used in cooking. To cook delicious and non-sticky rice, the owner purchased an expensive rice-cooking net from Japan. Before opening the store and deciding on curry flavors, he also carried 10 kilograms of curry back from Japan for experimentation.

The restaurant is off Nanlougu Xiang at Xiao Ju'er Hutong, one alley north of Ju'er Hutong, where there is a white compound that many expats live. There is a small, laidback courtyard.

The inside space is quite small, with only four or five tables.

Suzuki Kitchen

Where: 77 Xiao Ju'er Hutong, Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 6403 1518

Website: suzukikitchen.com



Chicken curry set meal, 25 yuan

Photo by Yu Tingmei

First Beijing exhibition for pioneer of ink-and-wash painting

By Chu Meng

Throughout his 30-year artistic career, Chinese ink-and-wash painter Li Huayi has had to answer many questions about his art form, which – however popular in China – has yet to gain a foothold in the international art scene.

How can an ink-and-wash painter be marketable in a contemporary art movement with foundations in Europe and the US? How does one stay rooted in China? How can an artist be successful internationally while maintaining close ties with his native culture?

Li's answer has always been in his works, more than 30 of which are being shown to Chinese viewers for the first time at the exhibition "Images of the Mind: The Landscape Paintings of Li Huayi," which opened at the National Art Museum of China on Saturday.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Beijing Center for the Arts.

Born in 1948 to wealthy Shanghai parents, Li began studying art at age 6. His family lost all its wealth and privilege overnight in 1954, and they relocated to Qinghai Province in the northwest.

Li, however, was allowed to remain in Shanghai to study. At 16, he came under the tutelage of Zhang Chongren, who was trained at the Royal Academy in Brussels. Li learned the basics of European art theory and practice while maintaining his Chinese artistic identity. Later he studied the Soviet realist styles that dominated Chinese public art in the 1960s.

He had sought out these styles out of artistic curiosity, but they proved to be crucial in helping him through the Cultural Revolution, during which time he worked as a "workers' artist" producing large works for public consumption in Shanghai.

In 1982, he left for San Francisco to pursue Western art theory and painting practices.

Two decades later, his works began to be collected by some of the world's leading art museums, including Harvard Art Museums, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and the National Museum of Tokyo.

Michael Knight, deputy direc-



tor of the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, said Li's artistic output is "a combination of the past and present."

Knight said the Cultural Revolution influenced Li in two major ways.

"When this movement began in 1966, he was 18 and art was only one of the career paths he was considering," Knight said. "When it ended in 1976, he was 28 and his career path as an artist had been set."

Second, while many artists with similar training and experiences during the Cultural Revolution continued to practice techniques and styles based on the Western traditions they were forced to learn, Li found that after 10 years of being forced to practice these styles, he needed to explore other means of expression.

"The Western arts, brilliant and bright as the sun, tend to excite the audience with their shocking power," Li said. "On the contrary, ink-and-wash paintings will appease the audience just as delicately as the moonlight. Chinese ink-wash painting represents an oriental lifestyle that is elegant and natural."

Another exhibition, "Beyond Representation: Li Huayi's New Art," will open at the Beijing Center of Art tomorrow.

Beyond Representation: Li Huayi's New Art

Where: Beijing Center for the Art, 23 Qianmen East Street, Dongcheng District

When: April 23 – June 1, 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6559 8008 ext 812

Sunday, April 24

Exhibition
Russian
Master Series
– Exhibition of
Logvinenko
Eugene Spiri-

donovich

This exhibition features Spiridonovich's paintings, which depict historical events, fairy tales and atman portraits, showing human dignity being infringed upon.

Where: Mountain Art, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 15, 11 am

– 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 9498

Movie
Princes and Princesses
(2000)

The characters in this film are silhouettes, and in six episodes they act out occurrences

of love from ancient Egypt to traditional Japan.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 6:30 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, 10

yuan for students

Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

The Radio Dept

This Swedish pop band

Friday, April 22

5

Exhibition
Breaking
Away – An
Abstract Art
Exhibition

This

group exhibition looks back at 30 years of development of abstract art in China, with works from early artists expressing their individuality in the 1980s and young artists still working today.

Where: Boers-Li Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 8, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2620

Movie
Azur and Asmar
(2006)

This French animated film is about the friendship

of a Frenchman and an Arabian, both nursed by one woman, who go on an adventure to rescue a princess.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 8229 6153

Nightlife
Hedgehog

Last month this local rock band released its fourth album, *Honeyed and Killed*, about the end of adolescence.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 60 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

Saturday, April 23

6

Nightlife
Voodoo
Kungfu
This

local metal

band recently released the album *Dark Age*, combining traditional Mongolian and Tibetan musical themes with a heavy metal oeuvre.

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 80 yuan

advance purchase, 100

yuan at the door, 60

yuan for students

Tel: 6402 5080



Exhibition
Running the Numbers
– **Chris Jordan Solo**
Exhibition

This exhibition looks at contemporary American culture through the austere lens of statistics: 2 million plastic bottles symbolizes bottle consumption and 106,000 aluminum cans symbolize yearly can consump-

tion in the US.

Where: Other Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 15, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 9684

Movie
Kirikou and the Wild
Beasts (2005)

This French animated feature is about Kirikou, a razor-sharp little boy who outsmarts an evil witch who threatens his resilient African village.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8438 8258 ext.

8008



Upcoming

Nightlife
Success

Songs from this French electronic band's first EP, *Hard to Come Back*, appear in the soundtrack of the Hollywood film *Zombieland*. The band's second album, *Secret*, was released at the end of last year.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: April 28, 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in May

Concert

Anne-Sophie Mutter Violin
Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 280-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Peter Ritzen Piano Recital

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-580 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint-Marc Choir

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaochengyuan Lu, Xicheng District

When: April 8, 2 pm and

7:30 pm

Admission: 60-580 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Piotr Anderszewski Piano
Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 28, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Offering / Fragrance presented
by Beijing Modern Dance Com-

pany

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 18-19, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Butterfly Metamorphosis

Where: Fengchao Theater, 200 meters east of Oriental Ginza, 12 Shizipo, Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 3-15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-200 yuan

Tel: 8836 8265

He and His Two Wives

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 21, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-880 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

Opera

Puccini's Opera: Tosca

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 12-15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-800 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Treat spring headaches with traditional medicine

By Li Zhixin

Spring is the peak season for headaches. According to a report by the Chinese Medical Association (CMA), 57 percent of urban residents experience headaches during spring.

Climate change, sleep time reduction, viral infections, pollen allergies and affective disorders are frequent causes of headaches this season.

Acupuncture for relief

Zhao Lei, a 36-year-old office worker, has had frequent migraine headaches since overcoming a severe cold in February. For the last month, headaches have been a daily occurrence. The constant pain has made it impossible for him to lead a normal life.

He went to Beijing University of Chinese Medicine's Guoyitang Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital last Friday to ask for help because the headaches were affecting his whole family.

Zhao gave the doctor a list of all the Western medicines he was taking: prophylactic agents like beta-blockers, tricyclic agents and muscle relaxants. He had been increasing his dosage of pain killers so he could continue to function at work. He was taking Excedrin, aspirin and generic Sudafed three times per day. For the most severe headaches, he turned to Wigraine and Imitrex injections.

The doctor prescribed a series of acupuncture treatments to be conducted three times per week. After more than

one week, his headaches were significantly reduced.

Instead of experiencing daily headaches, he was headache-free four to five days a week. The doctor reduced the treatment to twice a week, and then to once a week. After a month, Wang was headache free. Today he visits the doctor once a month for a "tune-up" and remains free of pain.

"Every year many urban residents suffer from recurring headaches. Most of them are identified as migraine sufferers," said Xue Weiguo, a doctor at Guoyitang.

He said acupuncture is not only effective at treating migraine headaches, but also tension headaches, cluster headaches, post-traumatic headaches and disease-related headaches that may be related to sinus problems, stroke, high blood pressure or sleeping disorders.

The greatest advantage of acupuncture over Western medicine is that it has no side effects.

"A clear mind and pain-free head depend on having sufficient qi and blood flow, well-functioning internal organs and a correct rising and falling of yin and yang energy," Xue said.

A number of conditions, patterns and dysfunctions can cause headaches. The most common are a deficiency of qi, poor circulation and a blockage of the meridians by external pathogenic factors.

"Acupuncture treatment can harmonize the organs, balance yin and yang, nourish qi and blood and facilitate the flow of blood and qi into the head by clearing blocked meridians," he said.

Herbal treatment for headache

Traditional medicine has a coherent, consistent and philosophically-based framework for headache diagnosis and treatment.

1. External influences

When a headache is caused by an external pernicious influence such as chemicals, weather and other environmental factors, it can occur suddenly, often along with other symptoms of wind.

When it is due to cold wind, symptoms include sporadic pain in the back or the top of the head, stiff, aching shoulders, an aversion to cold temperatures, aggravation of the condition by wind, tight and sore shoulders and neck and nasal congestion, a thin-white tongue coating and a floating, tight pulse. The traditional treatment for this pattern is Chuanxiongchaitiao Wan, eaten with green tea.

When hot wind is the culprit, the symptoms include a painfully-swollen sensation in the head, fever, an aversion to warm temperatures, red face, red eyes, thirst, constipation, dark-colored urine, a red tongue with a yellow coating and a floating, rapid pulse. In this case, the appropriate formula is Ganmaoling Chongji or Yinqiao Jiedu Pian taken with chrysanthemum tea.

When the external pathogen is dampness, the pain will be dull and heavy — as if the head were wrapped in a wet blanket. Other symptoms include foggy thinking, fatigue, fever or chills, nasal or chest congestion, aggravation of symptoms by damp weather, difficult in urination, loose bowels, a sticky-white tongue coating and a slow pulse. An effective

patent remedy for this type of headache is Huoxiang Zhengqi Wan, which is also for headaches due to internal dampness.

If nasal or sinus congestion accompanies all the above types of acute and externally contracted headaches, it is a good idea to also eat Biyan Pian.

2. Internal influences

A common internal cause of headache is liver yang rising up to the head, which may occur when a person experiences anger or frustration or as the result of a long-term deficiency of liver yin. Symptoms of this pattern include pain with dizziness, irritability, anxiety, insomnia, nausea and a wiry, strong pulse. Traditional formulas for this include ingredients such as gastrodiae elatae and uncariae, both effective at relieving tightness in the neck and shoulders.

In the condition known as liver fire, a condition of extreme heat, the symptoms are the same as for liver yang headaches, with the addition of red face and eyes, more irritability, a bitter taste in the mouth and a thin, yellow tongue coating. The standard formula for this pattern is Longdan Xieganwan, which purges heat from the liver.

When kidney deficiency is the culprit of the headache, symptoms include low-level pain with a feeling of emptiness, sleeplessness, fatigue, dizziness, sore back, ringing in the ears, spontaneous seminal emissions in men or abnormal vaginal discharge in women and a thin, weak pulse. The proper herbs for this pattern are rehmannia, Asian cornelian cherry fruit, dioscoreae root and wolfberry.

Symptoms of a blood stagnation-

induced headache include a sharp, fixed, stabbing pain in a specific location, a thin-choppy pulse and a purple tongue with a thin-white tongue coating. Usually, previous traumatic injury is the root cause. Herbal preparations like Yansuo Zhitong Pian can move the blood and relieve pain.

Symptoms of blood deficiency-induced headaches include pain with dizziness, heart palpitations, fatigue, pale complexion, a pale tongue body with a thin, white tongue coating, and a thin, weak pulse. Chronic illness or loss of blood tends to cause this pattern. Leading herbs include Chinese angelica, white dahlia root, Chinese foxglove and chuanxiong.

If qi deficiency is the cause, headache will begin or worsen after physical exertion. It tends to feel better in the morning or after rest. The dull pain is sometimes accompanied by fatigue and a lack of appetite. The treatment is to nourish qi. One appropriate remedy is Buzhong Yiqi Wan.

When it is due to phlegm retention patterns caused by obesity or overindulgence in sweet and fatty foods, the symptoms will be a dull head pain with a feeling of heaviness, nausea and phlegm retention in the throat, a sensation of fullness and pressure in the chest, a white, sticky tongue coating and a slippery pulse. Herbs for this pattern include tangerine peel, baizhu root and pinelliae.

CFP Photo





Crosstalk, Tianjin style

By Zhang Dongya

Beijing may be the birthplace of crosstalk – or *xiangsheng* – but Tianjin has kept the best ambiance and tradition of the performing art.

Watching crosstalk from a Tianjin teahouse may be the best way to learn about this art. Well-known anecdotes from history are mixed with current affairs. Listen carefully and you're sure to catch jokes and puns that will induce uproarious laughter.

Crosstalk roots in Tianjin

Crosstalk is everywhere in the city. You'll find elders gathered around TVs in residential communities, and cab drivers listening to it on the radio. Some people listen repeatedly to the same show and never get bored. For them, the best crosstalk shows can be like pop songs: they get better, catchier every time.

Tianjin, as a northern harbor and the metropolis nearest Beijing, has been a gathering place for all kinds of regional cultures for a long time. It's merely a coincidence, however, that some of the best crosstalk masters were born in Tianjin, such as Ma Sanli and Guo Degang, the most popular performer today.

In Tianjin, even ordinary people on the street have the gift of crosstalk gab. Part of the reason may lie in Tianjin's strange dialect, which locals are willing to poke fun at. And if there's one element of humor that characterizes crosstalk – other than puns – it's the willingness to be self-deprecating.

Tianjin crosstalk listeners are also, by extension, the hardest to please. Professional crosstalkers must constantly innovate, otherwise they'll face a damning rebuke: "already heard that."

Traditional teahouse shows

In Beijing, crosstalk is performed in theaters, but in Tianjin, people watch in teahouses.

Teahouses were important places for Chinese people to relax and socialize. Pingshu – talk shows – were often hosted in teahouses as well.

There are several teahouses in Tian-

jin where you can watch authentic crosstalk. The smaller ones can fit a few dozen people, while the bigger ones can seat more than a hundred.

Mingliu Teahouse is the most popular. Crosstalk guru Ma's signature is on the signboard near the entrance.

The teahouse was built in 1991: the first of its kind since the tradition was revived following a lull during the Cultural Revolution.

There are now three Mingliu Teahouses, the latest of which opened in 2009.

The place is usually crowded. The interior is designed according to layouts from ancient times. The playbills passed around and posted on the walls are all in the ancient style. Cups of water and tea are free for those attending a performance.

Shows begin with a *zhuban* – bamboo clapper – performance, with actors dressed in long mandarin gowns.

Then the crosstalkers take the stage, usually for 20 minutes. The language they use is more colloquial than what you might see on TV.

Continued on page 21...



Having a good laugh at Tianjin's crosstalk teahouses is a great way to relax.

CFP Photos



Tianjin, as a northern harbor, has been a gathering place for all kinds of regional cultures for a long time.





Watching crosstalk in teahouses in Tianjin may be the best way to experience the city.

CFP Photo



CFP Photo

...continued from page 20

Guankou, a type of fast and rhythmic talk, usually is the best part of every show. Afterwards, performers are always asked to give an encore.

The best performers are able to give three or more encores, which is always a treat for audiences.

The entire performance lasts two-and-a-half to three hours.

Mingliu Teahouse

This one now has three teahouses in the city. It attracts many people on weekends, so it's recommended people go to the theater 30 minutes early to buy tickets. Reservations are not accepted. Seats are first-come, first-served.

Time: Daily, 8 pm; on weekdays, there is a 1 pm and 4 pm matinee

Xinhualu Teahouse

Where: F1, Heping Culture Palace, 177 Xinhua Lu, Heping District

Getting there: Take bus 1, 4, 50, 611, 650, 808, 831, 851, 901 to Shandonglu and walk along Chifeng Dao for 200 meters. Turn left on Xinhua Lu and walk another 100 meters to the west.

Tel: 022-2711 6382

Admission: 40 yuan

Ancient Culture Street Teahouse

Where: F2, Ancient Culture Street, Nankai District

Getting there: Take bus 15, 801, 804, 954 to Dongbeijiao and walk 100 meters to the east.

Tel: 022-2728 6420

Admission: 50 yuan

Gulou Teahouse

Where: 52 Gulou Commercial Street, Nankai District

Getting there: Take bus 161, 168, 635, 652, 657, 855 to Gulou and walk 100 meters to the south.

Tel: 022-8825 2627

Admission: 40 yuan

Getting to Tianjin: The fast train from Beijing South Railway Station to Tianjin departs every 20 minutes. It takes 30 minutes to reach Tianjin; tickets cost 58 yuan.

Other places to watch crosstalk shows in Tianjin

Qianxiangyi Theater

This is an old teahouse in a Qing-style building. Both young and experienced performers work here.

Where: 12 Guyi Jie, Dahutong, Hongqiao District

Tel: 022-2705 3206

Admission: 45 yuan



CFP Photo

Grand Stage Crosstalk Teahouse

In addition to daily crosstalk shows, there is an interactive event held here every Saturday morning, where amateur crosstalkers are given the stage. Professional performers watch and offer suggestions.

Where: 57 Chifeng Dao, Heping District

Tel: 022-8578 8185

Admission: 30 yuan



Hexie Theater

This theater uses young performers born in the '80s and '90s, with shows on weekends only.

Where: Xinxiuju, New Culture Garden, Fu'an Dajie, Heping District

Tel: 022-5805 6037

Admission: 15 yuan



China Grand Theater

This crosstalk show, staged in the small theater inside China Grand Theater, features older performers.

Where: 104 Harbin Dao, Heping District

Tel: 022-2712 1315

Admission: 30 yuan



Laocheng Xiao Liyuan (Small Theater in Old City)

Located inside Tianjin Old-City Museum in a courtyard, this theater is for crosstalk, talk shows and operas.

Where: Tianjin Old-City Museum, 202

Gulou Dong Jie, Nankai District

Tel: 400-101-9899

Admission: 40 yuan



Photos by Mockingbird

Healthcare

United Family joins Pink Ribbon to fight cancer

On April 4, the first day of National Cancer Prevention Week, United Family Healthcare's central executive officer Roberta Lipson announced that United Family New Hope Oncology Center will be cooperating with the Pink Ribbon Community of the China Association of Social Workers to prevent and treat breast cancer.

New Hope Oncology Center provides outpatient service for people who are battling cancer. "We offer tailored treatments which encourage and help patients with breast cancer to work, have fun and continue their social lives during treatment instead of leaving them stuck in the hospital," said Sylvia Pan, general manager.

Wang Guotao, director of Pink Ribbon,

said early detection is the best tool to fight breast cancer and is a crucial part of an overall treatment strategy. "When breast cancer becomes more advanced, it is very difficult to cure," Dr. Philip Brooks, the hospital's director of oncology, said.

The center opened on January 11. It has already provided cancer treatment to patients from more than 10 countries.

United Family Healthcare has been in China for 14 years. Its facilities in Beijing and Shanghai are equipped with state-of-the-art mammogram, ultrasound and CT scanners to help diagnose a wide range of cancers, including breast cancer and other breast-related disorders.

(By Li Zhixin)



Are you Beijing's Next Top Model?

Are you a woman between the ages of 18 and 28 who has the face and figure we need?

On Saturday, May 28, Toni&Guy Hilton, together with Zeta Bar, is offering you the chance to become Beijing's Next Top Model 2011.

The sensational event will take place at the Zeta Bar and feature a laser- and spotlight-illuminated catwalk. Following the fashion show will be an after-party of glamour and fame sure to spice up the night.

On the evening of the show, 12 finalists will be treated to a full makeover, hair styling and high fashion outfits to compete for fantastic prizes like a year of free hair styling at the world famous Toni&Guy Hilton Salon.

The event is expected to draw the media, model agents, leading photographers and fashion magnates. Don't miss your chance to shine!

Can't wait to join? Contact us now and send your picture and personal details (including measurements and height) to missscarlet111@yahoo.co.uk before May 20.

Frank Cai guest chef in world-renowned gastronomic event

Frank Cai, Chinese chef of Hilton Beijing, was invited to represent Chinese cuisine at the Forum Gastronomic 2011, Girona, Spain, one of the most prestigious culinary events in Europe. To impress the international food experts, Cai distilled the essence of Chinese cooking into one dish which would represent contemporary dining trends and traditional cooking arts. His fascinating demonstration and comprehensive knowledge won him respect and compliments from all present.

This year's forum theme was "Healthy Diet." For

his offering, Cai used tofu, one of China's most common ingredients, to Europe. Tofu is used in many Chinese dishes and has been recognized as a healthy choice by many nutritionists. His "Home-made Tofu Filled with Mushrooms and Served with Pumpkin Soup" proved that one can eat healthy, simple and fashionable at the same time.

"I am really grateful and honored to have participated in this event," Cai said. "It is indeed invigorating to demonstrate the art of Chinese cuisine on such a grand scale. Both professionally and personally, it is a great honor to be a part of the Forum Gastronomic 2011 Girona, Spain."



Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong opens as world's highest hotel

The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong opened at the end of last month to dominate Hong Kong's skyline as the world's "highest" hotel. Located at the very top of the International Commerce Centre (ICC) in Hong Kong, occupying floors 102 to 118, the hotel is the pinnacle of luxury and a beacon of contemporary style. The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong is the newest addition to the brand's growing global portfolio of 75 luxury properties and its 16th hotel in Asia.

"The opening of this landmark hotel in Hong Kong is the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication to delivering the very best product, facilities and service in this international gateway city," said Herve Humler, president and chief operations officer of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company. "Partnering with Hong Kong's premier developer, Sung Hung Kai Properties, we have been able to create something truly spectacular to welcome our guests not just to the highest hotel in the world, but also to one of the very best hotels in the world. We are taking luxury to new heights in every sense."

The stylish and contemporary interiors by Singapore's LTW set the scene for this thoroughly modern hotel set in the heart of Hong Kong. It offers breathtaking views of Victoria Harbor and the iconic Hong Kong skyline.

The hotel's 312 guest rooms all offer spectacular city and harbor views. In addition, Club Room guests can enjoy a panoramic view from the Ritz-Carlton Club Lounge with complimentary food and beverage presentations 24 hours a day.

Event

BAIC sponsors 1st Beijing International Film Festival's car service

Beijing Automotive Industry Holding Cooperation (BAIC) signed a contract with Beijing International Film Festival Committee on April 16 to be the designated car sponsor during the festival week of April 23 to 28.

BAIC, the nation's fifth automotive group, will provide 50 Beijing Benz limos and 50 eighth-generation Beijing Hyundai limos for pickup and delivery of film festival chairmen, directors, stars and other guests.

Airline

Jetstar's China network spurred by second-tier cities

Low fares leader Jetstar is capitalizing on the outbound travel growth from China's second-tier cities, having launched a number of new routes from these markets in the last year.

China will soon become one of the world's major sources of outbound tourists with traffic from "second-tier" cities a key driver of traffic.

According to the World Travel Trends Report released at the International Tourism Exchange trade show in March, the number of Chinese travelers taking outbound trips could reach 79 million by 2015.

This will effectively make China the largest outbound travel market.

Jetstar Asia, the Asian operator of the Jetstar Group, flies direct from Singapore to Guilin, Haikou and Shantou. The carrier launched its Singapore-Hangzhou service on March 22.

"The growth of outbound trips from China has been facilitated by a growing middle class, rising incomes and a simplified visa application process," Chong Phit Lian, central executive officer of Jetstar Asia, said.

For airlines operating in second-tier cities, destinations alone are only part of the equation.

Industry experts noted that "incentives" for second-tier travelers will be a deciding factor on destinations.

With Jetstar's Price Beat Guarantee, passengers are assured of the lowest fares on all the routes. Should any customer find a lower fare online for the same route on the same day at a comparable time, Jetstar will beat the fare by 10 percent.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

Body-building pigs

By *Chu Meng*

Chinglish hunter Eric is a UK native and proofreader. His curiosity for linguistic phenomenon, which he says results from "cross-cultural communication," led him to open a private Chinglish-to-English proofreading studio last year and a Chinglish photostream on Flickr last year.

He said he has been extremely frustrated by the number of quirky and indigestible words appearing in Chinese news recently.

Eric used the example "body-building pigs" and said Chinglish expressions such as those "puzzle me a lot. After hearing it, it feels like someone reached down my throat, grabbed my small intestines, pulled it out of my mouth and tied it around my neck."

"Later I figured out that it refers to pigs that are illegally fed with lean meat powder," he said.

Chinglish isn't limited to just the news. Sometimes when he talks with Chinese friends, they use words that they translate imprecisely from English, leading to miscommunication.

Since China's media industry has grown prosperous and internationalized — *China Daily* is now available in the US, for instance — the news world has become a rich source of Chinglish in the past couple of years.

Another news word that puzzled him was "slave." He understands common expressions like "house slave" and "car slave," but he got lost when newscasters began talking about "child slaves" and "group-purchase slaves."

"I thought they were talking about child slavery," he said. "But in China, couples who are born in the 1980s find it extremely stressful to raise a child, and so these couples are called 'child slaves.'"

And "group-purchase slave," as Eric learned, doesn't refer to any black markets, but instead to people who get addicted to shopping on group-purchase websites.

Eric said the Chinese language most easily lends itself to creative new words

than most world languages because Chinese words and phrases consist of diverse combinations of characters. The ability to create vivid and colorful new words is what makes Chinese unique.

"However, words borrowed from other places should be translated in a more direct, clearer and simpler way. And Chi-

na's English media bears a big portion of that responsibility," he said.

For him, Chinglish is not only a local linguistic tool, but rather a sociological and physiological one. "It shows the wisdom of the nation. It is the Chinese way of thinking about communication," he said.



Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

1. He observes the society through his camcorder lens.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD): When "society" means all the people or human beings living together as a group, it is abstract and never assumes the definite article. For instance, we say: Einstein made a great contribution to human society. The habit of heart in Western society is different from Eastern society. He majored in the history of ancient Chinese society. On this point, beginners are fairly liable to commit errors. Only when "society" refers to "a group of people joined together for a common cause" does it assume the definite article. For instance, She cultivated the society of painters and writers. The sample sentence should be: He observes society through his camcorder lens.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): You can think of it this way: "society" refers to people in general, while "the society" is a specific group. "The" usually points to something specific.

2. The current reality in China

ZSD: Reality itself means the actual existence, the current existence, the true state of affairs. It is totally unnecessary to add the adjective "current" to reality. You may say: the reality in China, or Chinese reality. I find students are liable to add unnecessary adjectives to nouns. For instance: the beautiful young girl. A girl, of course, is young. The adjective "young" is not necessary here, just as "current" is unnecessary in the sample sentence.

TBZ: It seems to me that Chinese is repetitive (we may also say "clarifying") in ways that English is not. Keep up your reading and read actively, paying attention to how native speakers use adjectives. This will help to prevent unnecessary repetition.

3. With how the display is broken up, it will take four trips to fully understand Wang's message.

ZSD: "With how the display is broken up" is an adverbial clause of cause. The phrase "with how" may be colloquial and people do use it in conversation. However, it seems to be somewhat awkward in standard journalistic writing. Why not change it a little to make it better? My proposal is: As the display is broken up, it will take four trips to fully understand Wang's message. I think the idea is clearer.

TBZ: I think this suggestion is a good one. Possibly the sentence could be turned around, as long as it doesn't change the meaning: It will take four trips to fully understand Wang's message due to how the display is broken up. Then we don't have to fuss around with understanding the clause and what it relates to.

4. The Weibo users's goal

ZSD: We say: the Weibo users' goal, never the Weibo users's goal. I'll give you some more examples: the investors' goal, the Nationalists' goal. However, we do say: Karl Marx's theory, Clarks's message (when the man is named Clarks), among other things.

TBZ: Add apostrophe-s when the possessive is singular, no matter whether the word ends in "s" or not. Do not use apostrophe-s when the word ends in an "s" and it is plural, as in the example "investors" (investors'). Although please note that some magazines' and newspapers' style guides, such as *Beijing Today's*, stipulate that apostrophe-s is never used when a word ends in "s," regardless of whether it's singular or plural.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Step Forward to Get Closer to Civilization

By *Terry Boyd-Zhang*

Wait! Don't look at the second photo yet! It shows where this sign was spotted and will spoil the surprise.

Many Chinese people appear to be a bit obsessed by "civilized behavior." I'm not sure I understand it, and since my first supervisor in China told me by way of advice, "You are not Chinese and you never will be," how could understand it?

Although I'm not Chinese, I think that China already has a wonderful civilization. Whether you calculate 60 or 6,000 years, I see no absolutely need for China's civilized society to have Golden Arches emblazoned over it. China does not need to "step closer" to civilization because it is already there. Civilization — and a glorious one — is already



all around us, in Beijing and throughout this great country.

My husband tells me that the sign makes perfect sense in Chinese and that he sees it everywhere. Let's take *qianjin yibu kaojin wenming* bit by bit. *Qianjin* is "move forward" and *yibu* is "one step." *Kaojin* means "get near" and *wenming* is "civilization," or a term approximating "civilized, polite."

Now take a look at where this sign was found. Yes, a urinal. It's saying "Step up, gents! Your range is not as long as you think it is!"

I am told this phrase is fairly common in men's rooms. I'm not a man, and never will be — no wonder I've never seen it!



Photos provided by Purenet Chris

Movie of the week

Many great films get their start as bestselling books, but Hollywood can't keep up with all the great literature coming out each year. Dreamworks made a smart gamble when it decided to buy the rights to a film adaptation of *I Am Number Four*, a book that spent four straight weeks as the No. 1 bestseller on the *New York Times'* list.

Critics called it a *Twilight* knockoff. True or not, moviegoers love mysteries, and *I Am Number Four* delivers. When secrets make an alien humanoid an outsider at his school, a charming girl becomes intrigued with him and falls in love.

Synopsis

An extraordinary young man, John Smith, is a fugitive on the run from ruthless enemies sent to destroy him. Changing his identity and moving from town to town with his guardian Henri, John is the perpetual "new kid" with no ties to his past.

Now in a small Ohio town he is starting to call home, John encounters unexpected, life-changing events – his first love, powerful new abilities and a connection to others who share his incredible destiny.

I Am Number Four (2011)

Scene 1

(Henri and John prepare to move out of town.)

Henri (H): Here's your new ID. But this time, you stay outta sight. No school. No teams. Nothing.

John (J): John Smith. Very original.

H: I don't want to be original. I want to be invisible.

J: This time was different. I didn't just get a scar. I saw Number Three. I felt the knife; I felt him dying. I could tell we all did ... the others.

H: We should get moving. Mogadorions could have already **picked up our scent (1)**. I'm going to Paradise. I have business to take care of.

(They arrive at their

new house.)

H: It's Bernie Kosar. He played football. Yeah ... he played for Cleveland.

J: Good to know. Next time I get to pick the place.

H: Yeah.

(A lizard follows them into the house as they unpack.)

J: That is all of it. I'm gonna go to the bed.

H: Ooh, hang on. I need your picture. We have to **wipe out (2)** anything that hits the Internet. Say "Paradise"!

(They spot his picture on a photo-sharing website.)

J: Oh shit.

H: This is why I need you to be invisible.

Scene 2

(A stray dog is outside the house and John wants to adopt it.)

H: Get back inside. John, come on. Come back inside.

J: It's a little small for a Mogadorion, don't you think? (Back inside, they feed the dog.)

H: I'm sure he belongs to someone.

J: He doesn't have any collar or tags. Somebody somewhere must miss you, huh? Come on, another pair of eyes and ears to watch the house? I'm going to need somebody to talk to.

H: Talk to me. (Shrugs) Yeah, keep the dog. What are you gonna call him?

J: How about Bernie Kosar? (The next day, John prepares

to go out.)

H: What are you doing up?

J: Changed my mind.

H: About what?

J: Look, as much fun as you are to be around, I can't be a prisoner. I have to go to school.

H: Nope. No way. Too risky.

J: Come on, Number Three was completely off the grid when the Mogs got him. You couldn't save him.

H: No.

J: Look, I'm going to be safer if I blend in. I promise I'll keep a low profile.

H: Look, even if I let you out, which I won't, you can't just waltz into school and start classes.

J: You think you're the only one who can forge documents?

H: Hm, do you have

J: Four to five days of rations, different clothes, a GPS and cash.

H: What's your name?

J: John Smith.

H: Where are you from?

J: Toronto.

H: You seem kind of tan for Toronto.

J: Santa Fe, New Mexico. I know the drill, OK?

H: Keep this on you. I'll call to every hour. If you don't pick up, I know something is wrong.

J: Come on! Every hour?

H: That, or you can home-school – and I'll be your teacher.

J: Fine!

H: Hey, John, don't be stupid. You **keep your head down (3)**.

Scene 3

(John is invited to dinner at Sarah's house.)

Sarah (S): Sorry about that. **J:** About what?

S: My parents, they are putting on the "aren't we cool" show.

J: They seem very proud of you.

S: Yeah, and they're already trying to convince me to go to the local community college in Dayton. They'd love it if I stayed here and got into wedding photography.

J: What do you want to do?

S: It's my favorite. It got all these light leaks so that the photos come out so interesting. Here, I'll show you.

(They go to her photo collection.)

S: See that one right there? That's what I was talking about.

J: What's this?

S: Well ... that's kind of private, actually ...

J: This is amazing. What?

S: You.

J: You're allowed to picture everyone else – take their pictures – but no one is allowed to see you?

S: OK, that's enough.

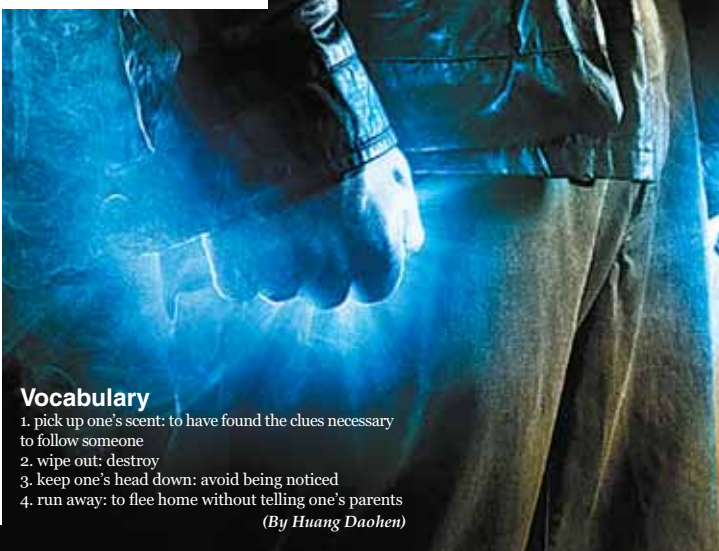
J: Seems like you want to **run away (4)**.

S: I'll just be happy when I can get out of here.

J: I don't know, I've been to a lot of places

S: You don't have to give me the "there's no place like home" speech.

J: No. You can go to wherever you want. See whatever you want to. But a place is only as good as the people you know in it.



Vocabulary

1. pick up one's scent: to have found the clues necessary to follow someone
2. wipe out: destroy
3. keep one's head down: avoid being noticed
4. run away: to flee home without telling one's parents

(By Huang Daoheng)